



Presentation of Certificate to MOH Dr. Visser from Aruba

*CEO of Toddler Health, Dr. Richard Visser is the new Minister of Health for Aruba*

## **Dr. Richard Visser honored by the Los Angeles City Council & Councilwoman Jan Perry**

*For his contribution to the study of childhood obesity locally and globally*

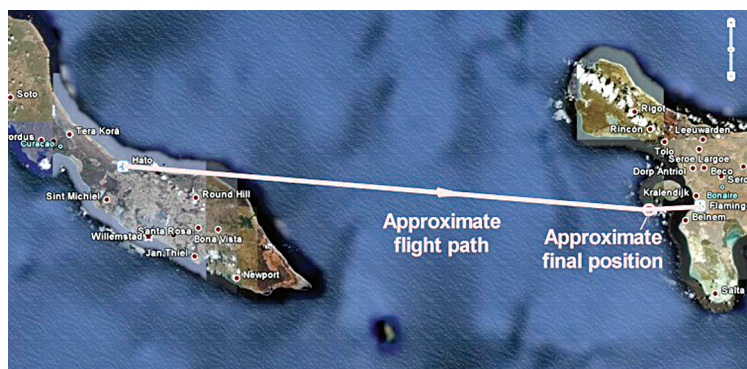
Los Angeles, CA -Dr. Richard Visser, CEO of Simply Toddler LLC, headquartered in Los Angeles, was elected as the Minister of Health, Well Being and Sport for Aruba in the recent elections.

Finding a solution for the health of current and future generations, Dr. Visser campaigned on changing school systems, health care provider systems and assisting the youth as well as the elderly. Last Friday, Dr. Visser was presented a Certificate of Congratulations by the Office of the Mayor of Los Angeles and Senator Nate Holden. Dr. Visser was also honored by the Los Angeles City Council & Councilwoman Jan Perry (an advocate for combating childhood obesity) for his contribution to the study of childhood obesity locally and globally.

*Continued on Next Page*

*Flying from Curacao to Bonaire*

## **A Divi Divi Air Britten-Norman BN2 A Islander ditched in the Caribbean Sea**



**By Simon Hradecky**  
WILLEMSTAD – On Thursday a Divi Divi Air Britten-Norman BN2 A Islander, registration PJ-SUN performing flight 016 from Curacao to Bonaire (Netherlands Antilles) with 9 passengers and 1 pilot, ditched before the coast of Bonaire when the pilot realized he

could not reach the airport anymore following an engine failure. The airplane impacted the water with considerable force at around 11:15L (15:15Z) causing the pilot to strike the windscreen with his head and being knocked unconscious. The passengers were unable to open his seat belt, but

all 9 passengers were able to leave the airplane and were taken aboard a boat that quickly arrived at the scene. The airplane sank, the pilot was killed. The airline confirmed, that the pilot was still on board when the airplane sank. Emergency services are currently trying to recover his body. The passengers were taken to local hospitals. There were rumours around, that the pilot may have gotten out of the airplane and was swimming to the coast. All emergency services and the airline said, those rumours were untrue. Curacao and Bonaire airports are 41nm apart. □



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## Dr. Richard Visser honored by the Los Angeles City Council & Councilwoman Jan Perry



### Continued from Front Page

He has spoken at various local schools regarding a healthier lifestyle for our kids as well as international conferences. He is the host of Extreme H Games, a non-profit program that airs on LA36 as part of building the Los Angeles community and teaches kids about choices for nutrition and activity. Additionally Dr. Visser is a partner with the Boys Girls Club of America ([www.bgca.org](http://www.bgca.org)).



org) where he will be speaking and teaching families about ways to revert and avoid health issues associated with childhood obesity. His US company, Simply Toddler LLC, is partners with The Celiac Disease Foundation ([www.celiac.org](http://www.celiac.org)) and FAAN (Food Allergy Anaphylactic Network) ([www.foodallergy.org](http://www.foodallergy.org)) and creates Toddler Health, a line of products for kids, sold at major retail stores.

Dr. Visser's states that his new post will give him the opportunity to implement strategic programs designed to build healthier communities via schools, media & health care providers. □





## Island Extravaganza

# Renaissance launches an inter-island, year-end promotion



ORANJESTAD – Much excitement followed the announcement of this morning that the sister Renaissance Resorts in Aruba and in Curacao had just launched an inter-island, year-end promotion appropriately called Island Extravaganza, designed to award a fully loaded Ford Mustang convertible on both islands simultaneously, to two lucky winners on the same day, November 28th, 2009.

The Renaissance in Aruba now proudly displays the new 2009 Ford Mustang Convertible on the street side, in front of the Renaissance Mall as part of its campaign.

The car is a signature casino feature as both the Crystal and the Seaport Casino have awarded America's favorite muscle car before, in successful past promotions. "It's not just a car," says Zugheila Lindeborg,

Shopping Center Marketing Coordinator Renaissance Mall & Marketplace, "it is a legend, one of the most powerful machines ever made in America, and we are giving it away at the end of a mega promotion to one of our loyal customers."

During the next 39 days, locals and visitors are invited to shop, dine and play at the heart of town Renaissance complex, and bring their receipts to the Player Center at either the Crystal or the Seaport Casino where they will receive a raffle ticket for each Awg 25 spent, and should fill out their name and their address appropriately and deposit the raffle ticket in the designated drum. Casino players will be rewarded with raffle tickets for each 25 points they accumulate while playing.

On November 28th, a twelve hour party will celebrate the conclusion of the campaign with folkloric dances, live musical entertainment, a car show, a fashion show, a singing festival, and a slew of other family oriented activities capped by a spectacular fireworks display at 10 p.m. The drum will spin at 7 p.m. that night, in plain public view, selecting the lucky man or women, the winners of the new Ford Mustang Convertible.

During a press conference Thursday morning at the Renaissance Marina Tower boardroom, Lindeborg also reported that a remote telecast from Curacao will transmit the festivities from the Curacao Renaissance Resort, Renaissance Mall and Carnival Casino, setting Mustang Mania on fire, at both destinations.

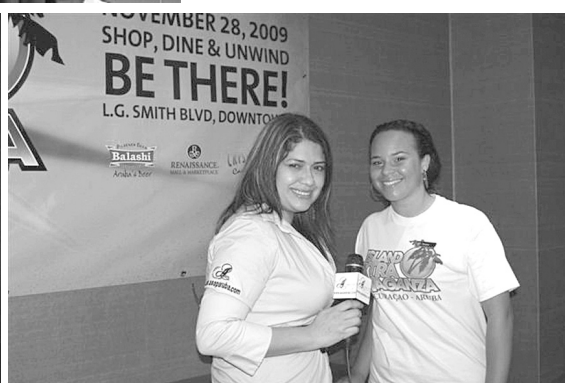
The campaign created an



instant sensation as locals and visiting shoppers have been posing with the car in front of the mall and dreaming of an exciting wind-in-the-hair driving experience, prepared to enjoy a head-turning, fun, powerful car which can be theirs, for an Awg 25

investment.

The campaign is offered by: Renaissance Aruba Resort, the Renaissance Mall, Crystal Casino, Seaport Casino, Balashi Beer, Renaissance Curacao Resort, Renaissance Curacao Mall, Carnival Casino & Balashi Beer. □



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- Onion Soup
- Conch Fritters
- Escargot
- Salad

**Entrée**

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- **Jumbo Shrimp** from our local waters, breaded served with potato or rice or with garlic tossed over linguine.
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**Dessert**

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\* This special cannot be used with any other promotions, vouchers or certificates.

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For the Autism Foundation at Café the Plaza

# Gear up for a 4-hour Spinning Marathon



ORANJESTAD - Everyone is getting ready for the four-hour spinning marathon, which entails cycling Tour de France highlights in the Pyrenees and the Alps and a relaxing 'Hollands uurtje' is coming up. On Wednesday evening, October 28, the four-hour effort gets underway in front of Café the Plaza in the Renaissance Marketplace.

Twenty stationary bikes, two great instructors, a big screen and lots of music with rousing beats will see to it that the marathon will be a success. The marathon starts at 7 pm – it is finished at 11 o'clock. Proceeds go towards the Autism Foundation; organizing health club is Healthy Living Club and Gym in Piedra Plat.

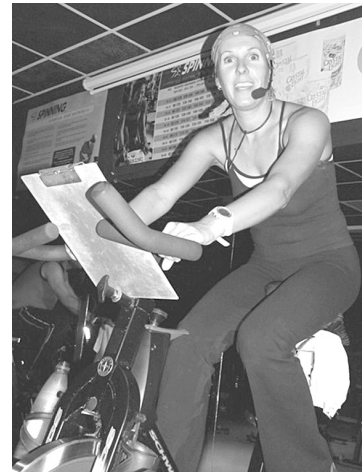
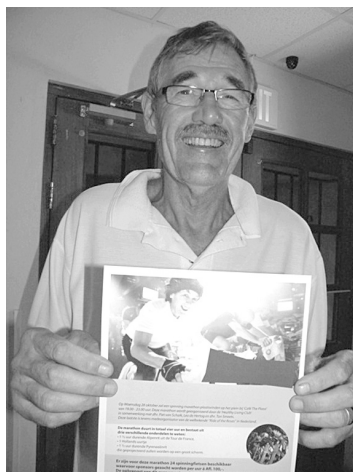
Everyone who wants to ride along for one, two or



more hours is welcome: just call 585-6550 and register: participation is free of charge. Instructors of the evening are Ton Smeets, who has lots of experience in organizing spinning marathons in the Netherlands, and Danielle Solognier, one of

Healthy Living's favorite instructors.

Funds for the Autism Foundation are generated through 'selling' cycling hours to sponsors. Ton Smeets and Leo den Hertog are currently busy finding sponsors. □





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# Travel is the theme of Louis Vuitton's new fine jewelry collection



Send Lorenz Bäumer to an exotic destination and he's liable to come back with tales of circles. "In all the cultures, civilizations and trips that I've encountered, there are always circles, and they always symbolize perfection," the jewelry designer marvels from behind a desk at his offices in Paris's Place Vendôme, with their stunning view of the square and its—what else?—circular column. In his hometown alone, Bäumer has oodles of rounds to inspire him, from the colorful macaroons at the pastry temple Ladurée to the rose windows at Notre Dame, designed, he says, to "tell stories for the people who couldn't read...[showing] the beauty of God through stained glass."

The talk at the moment, however, is of Bäumer's first collection of high jewelry for Louis Vuitton. The firm gave him a free hand, and the results, to be unveiled in October in Paris, are six sets, a one-of-a-kind necklace the focal point of each, with prices running up to \$2.5 million. Named L'âme du Voyage ("the soul of the trip"), the line connects Louis Vuitton's travel heritage with Bäumer's own penchant for going places. The son of a diplomat, he has lived in Bonn, Germany; Amman, Jordan; Montreal; and Tel Aviv. Picking up a copy of *The Egoistic Dictionary* of Lorenz Bäumer, published in 2007 to mark his first two decades as a Place Vendôme jeweler, he flips to a spread of objects collected on his journeys for his cabinet de curiosités. "It's really interesting to see Egypt, South Africa, Beirut, Japan, Burma, Indonesia," Bäumer says, jabbing his finger onto the page as he recalls each



one. "All the things that inspire me, they come from all over the world." Vuitton hired Bäumer—who, in addition to creating for his namesake firm, had designed anonymously for Chanel and Baccarat—to herald its arrival onto the international haute jewelry scene, eight years after house creative director Marc Jacobs designed a charm bracelet on a whim. "We thought it was time to go to the next step," says Yves Carcelle, Vuitton's chief executive. "Vuitton has a strong point of view on everything we do." Bäumer, for his part, says his mission is to help Vuitton be "recognized, admired and respected as a jeweler. We wanted to show at the beginning the vision, the capacity of creating incredible pieces in terms of craftsmanship, and the ability to tell a story. It's like writing a book. We just wrote a chapter."

So far, it's gripping stuff. Circles—in white, red and yellow gold, overlapping and glinting with colorful stones—make up one bib style, which Bäumer refers to as Masai in honor of the bright collars worn by the semi-nomadic African people. Another piece is an architectural marvel of swooping ovals and loops that intertwine, with sapphires the faintest blush of pink sheltered amid a roller coaster of small white stones. The inspiration? "It's a mixture between a wire, an umbrella and a bow," says Bäumer, who's wearing his signature head-to-toe black. "It could be [inspired by] the architect Santiago Calatrava, who does really deconstructed



things, or it could [reflect] the details in a Gothic church. That's the idea. When you come back from a trip, you see things flash back in your



memory."

While Bäumer is the type of jeweler who emphasizes design over materials, he's delighted that in his arsenal of gems are two Vuitton diamonds with patented cuts—a rounded-cut flower and a pointed-cut version—that mirror the shapes of the house's monogram motif. The stones, which boast between 61 and 77 facets, are extremely rare. "There's only one place you can find these diamonds, and it's at LV," he says, a big smile spreading over his boyish face.

The monogram shapes also register subtly in a laser-cut gold lace Bäumer created to use on the bib necklace, as well as on earrings and rings. He says he relishes the chance to play with other Vuitton hallmarks, from the gold and brown color combinations to the hardware on trunks. Still, it's hard to pin Bäumer down to a specific design aesthetic. He collects everything from 19th-century tie pins to the Campana brothers' furniture and has to pick his way through the myriad objects cramming his offices—a rare Art Deco



chair here, a framed but not yet hung contemporary photo there. Meanwhile, Vuitton's travel roots should give Bäumer plenty of fodder for future collections, for which he plans to take a wardrobe approach, creating jewels that correspond to everything from a bikini to a couture dress. And how will he measure his success at Louis Vuitton? In the same manner as at his own firm.

"If you're a jeweler, you're selling love, feelings, happiness, so the more you can cater to this, the more of a jeweler you are," he says. "When a woman gets jewelry and glows, then you're a great jeweler." □

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## \*\*\* Human Hints Daily \*\*\*

### *See From Your Spirit*

We can learn to control our three dimensional hologram, by changing our perspective toward it. I know what an insurmountable task this can seem, so let's explore a fundamental idea that will help us disconnect from the Hologram's Hold.

We are familiar with the idea that we are Spirits expressing in three dimensions through a Human body. It has been said that we are not Humans having a Spiritual experience, we are Spirits having a Human experience, and this is accurate. This is a powerful idea that alters our perspective, but logical knowledge takes us only so far. When we're in the Throes of Life, emotional

reaction takes over. We forget all about our subtle Spirit. The forces of Life solidify the Hologram and three dimensional survival becomes our only concern.

As we begin to think of ourselves as spirits acting through a three dimensional body, we shift our perspective toward life.

Our attitudes toward daily details change as we begin to see the big picture of our lives. When we see the bigger picture, we have more patience to endure our present situation, and we gain the courage to proceed into the unknown.

When faced with the unknown, Faith is what we must rely on.

When the three dimensional illusion of structure in your life fades away, all that is left is our belief in our selves. Your Faith is a constant that cannot be harmed or distorted by the three dimensional hologram.

Faith is not hoping that something or someone separate from yourself comes through in the end. Having Genuine Faith is believing in your Self. You are an infinite Spirit acting through a limited Body. Your Spirit guides you through your life, and arranges the lessons you agreed to when entering three dimensional limitation. When you believe in your Self, you trust in your own Spirit's ability to guide you along your True Path, and

provide for you against all logic.

As our view of ourselves changes, our view of others will change. As we begin to view ourselves from our Spirit's point of view, we will begin to recognize others as a Spirit acting through a Body. Spirit exists within Unity Consciousness. When we get in touch with our Spirit, we see that all Human Spirits are from the same source, so we are all One, we are all intimately connected. From this point of view, we can see that helping others is helping ourselves

When we trust in our Spirit's guidance through pre-arranged experiences, we naturally follow the true purpose of our lives.

There is no fear when you know that you are living your life's purpose. Let go of the illusion of control over your life, and surrender to your own guidance.

Remember that you are a Spirit in a Human Body. Look deeply into your own eyes and recognize your self beyond three dimensions, overseeing the Hologram of Limited Experience. Be aware of your Spirit every chance you get. When you look into the eyes of

others, recognize their Infinite Spirit peeking out at you.

During the course of the day, imagine your infinite self within your body, overseeing the three dimensional world, to arrange for the experiences of limitation that you signed up for. Begin to consciously operate from your Spirit's perspective.

Until Tomorrow...

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought.

HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

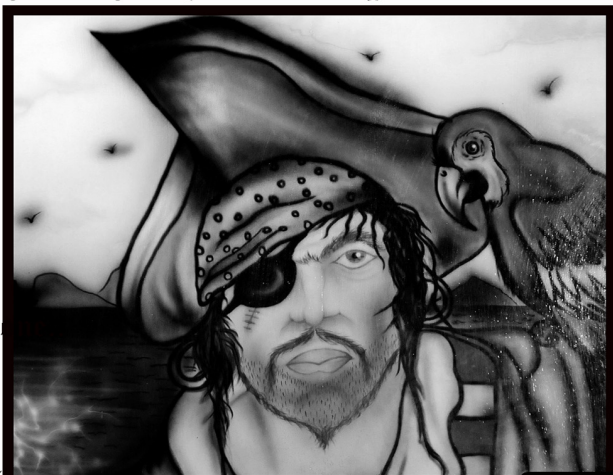
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## Buccaneer Restaurant

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Whether you come with the whole family, bring a group of friends, or enjoy for a romantic dinner for two, Buccaneer has the high quality service and fresh, flavorful international dishes that will make your dining experience a memorable. reservations email us at [info@buccaneeraruba.com](mailto:info@buccaneeraruba.com) or call 586-6172

Monday - Saturday 5:30-10 pm



Ahoy Matey bring this ad in for a free glass of house wine







words "I do" at La Cabana Chapel. The lovebirds met at a Halloween party on Oct. 31, 1998. They were introduced by Lisa Marus who was their matron of honor at their wedding. The Chapel was filled with 40

guests who flew in from all around the globe including their daughter Noelle Ashley to witness the union of marriage. Following the blessing a photo shoot took place on Eagle Beach at the famous Fofoti Tree. The reception followed at the

At Eagle Beach

## Sandra and Randy tie the knot at sunset



Sar



Divi Village where they were announced Mr & Mrs Bowers. The newlyweds danced their

first dance under the stars which was followed by a grand buffet next to the pool deck at the

Seabreeze Bar & Restaurant. The Bridal Party included: Lisa Markus, Suzanne Bowers, Noele Ashely Ester, Chris Tohper Bowers and Phillip Pietrangelo

The beautiful wedding was coordinated by the crew of Ceremonies & Celebrations in Aruba, and Divi Village, Seabreeze Restaurant. Ceremonies & Celebrations wishes you an eternal honeymoon filled with love & happiness. □

*Photos by Angela Munzenhofer of Bella Aruba Photography*



## BUGALOE BEACH VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

**Sunday November 8th**  
**Starts: 9:00am**

### MENU ITEMS

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### HAPPY HOUR

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## Fun, Friends... and Volleyball

[www.ArubaBeachVolleyball.com](http://www.ArubaBeachVolleyball.com)

**PALM BEACH - Sunday Novemver 8th the popular Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill is organizing the 4th edition of the Bugaloe Beach Volleyball Tournament.**

Locals and tourists are teaming up to participate in this funfilled tournament that takes place on the white powered sand of Palm Beach right in front of Bugaloe Beach Bar. There will be 3 team categories FUN (6 players),

ADVANCED (4 players) and PRO (2 players). In a relaxed ambiance several **celebrity DJ's** will play the best tunes while you can enjoy special prices on Amstel Bright and Heineken beer. You are welcome to visit, even if you are not playing. Don't miss it!

**Bugaloe is located at De Palm Pier on Palm Beach between RIU Palace and Radisson Resort.**

The after party takes place at Bugaloe Beach Bar with a popular live band on stage. Put the date in your calendar today. Fun guaranteed!

### Registration

It's already possible to sign up. At [www.ArubaBeachVolleyball.com](http://www.ArubaBeachVolleyball.com) you will find all the details and also a registration form.



J. E. Irausquin Blvd 79 at De Palm Pier • Tel (297) 5862233 • Fax (297) 5862234 • Email [info@bugaloe.com](mailto:info@bugaloe.com)



# Stacey & Derrick tied the knot and became one



**OCCIDENTAL** -On October 7, 2009 Stacey Lindo & Derrick Medeiros vowed their love as one under Aruba's sun.

The beach blessing took place at Occidental Grand Aruba Resort.

The romantic sermon was delivered by Officiate Robert Gibson and surrounded by 41 guests who witnessed the union of marriage.

Following the ceremony a "Once in a Lifetime Photo shoot" took place with Bella Aruba Photography who enjoyed capturing the lovely

moments of friends and family.

The romantic dinner reception followed in the Lounge Bar. The newlyweds were announced husband and wife as they walked down the stairs with loved ones cheering their honor.

Immediately following, Stacey & Derrick danced their first dance followed by

the parent dances. The guests and newlyweds enjoyed their blissful day in paradise.

"A Special word of thanks to our coordinator Ileana and the Occidental staff for delivering a wonderful week of relaxation and a wedding to cherish forever", stated the newlyweds.

*Photos by Angela Munzenhofer*





Don't miss the 5th edition of "I love Chocolate" on Saturday night

# "I LOVE CHOCOLATE" is on at Gari & Wasabi Sushi Lounge



PALMBEACH - Inconnection with "I love chocolate party" on Saturday October 24th at Gari & Wasabi sushi lounge, Restaurant Manager Orlando Naya had the idea to invite a select group of guests known in the night life scene on the Island for a taste test of food and drinks. He respected their opinions on what should be

served and what not. Some of the guests present were Photographer Jason Inesia, PR. Guru de jour Darrell Busby, DJ Jason Croes, Casa Tua Owner David Nataf, Event Promoter Ian Molina and the wonderful Caroline Habibe. Under the soothing lounge music without giving away their secrets, drinks were being

poured from behind the bar and served to the guest. What got everybody's attention was the green tea martini made with Martini Rossi Rose, which had a sweet nice taste and kept invitees wanting for more. A couple of drinks later, the chocolate martini came, also made with the fabulous Martini Rossi Rose, which had a very

sweet chocolaty soothing after taste. Another drink that also made an impact was the single glass of Martini Rossi Rose champagne with a single Ferrero Rocher chocolate in it. What a fascinating taste! When it came to the food, all the delicious rolls of sushi combined with a wonderful corn and crab salads like never tasted before, a delicious crusty dough filled with fried cheese named after the restaurant Gari & Wasabi. Orlando promises that chocolate lovers will go to heaven on Saturday Night when they bite into the Chocolate Sushi!

which is the open air terrace. Gari & Wasabi is also having a special on all Martini Rossi Rose Champagne just for this evening, seeing on how this is the special ingredient on some of the signature drinks of the evening. Starting at 6 with dinner under the music of Superstars Dj Yeimy and Dj Jason while enjoying the best exotic sushi on the Island and all the champagne and chocolate you can have. Make your reservation on time seats are limited by calling and or having your hotel concierge call Gari & Wasabi. Be there, don't wait to see it on facebook later and regret it. Gari & Wasabi, being the first of its kind of a "Japanese - Caribbean fusion" is located in Palm Beach 6-D, once you're on the road, let the music guide you! □





# SOL unveils first branded station at Ramsburg



Providence Primary School student Crystal David (centre) cuts the ribbon to formally open the Sol-branded Shell Service station at Ramsburg, Providence yesterday. At left of the picture is the service station dealer Dinesh Persaud while at extreme right is SOL Guyana General Manager, Ken Figaro. Standing next to him is GEA's acting head Mahender Sharma.

Oil company, SOL Guyana, one of the largest independent oil companies in the Caribbean, commissioned its first branded Shell Service station at Ramsburg, Providence on the East Bank of Demerara.

While addressing those gathered at the Ramsburg Service station, operated by Dinesh Narine, General Manager of SOL Guyana Inc, Ken Figaro said that the Shell 'Evolution' image with its modern, cleaner and brighter appearance, is one that is new

to the Region and Guyana. He said the company currently operates 16 branded sites in five countries with five more sites expected to be branded by the company in Guyana in the next few months.

Recounting the formation of the SOL Group briefly, Figaro said that the group was formed through the acquisition of Shell's petroleum distribution and marketing businesses in the Eastern Caribbean, Guyana, Suriname and Belize in February of 2005. He said

SOL made a further purchase of Esso's assets in Guyana and Suriname in November of 2007 and in Haiti in February of 2008. In 2009 the company gained further ground in the aviation business by acquiring Shell's aviation businesses in parts of the Caribbean including Antigua, St Kitts, St Maarten and St Lucia to mention a few. The transaction covers all aspects of Shell's aviation fuel businesses including distribution facilities and into-plane equipment.

According to Figaro, following the purchase of Esso's distribution and marketing assets in 2007, SOL Guyana embarked on firstly de-branding the eight ex-Esso sites here as well as those in Suriname. This move he said is in keeping with the company's license agreement with Shell International.

He added that the company is nearing completion of the rebranding of the Shell Corriverton site, as well as those at Linden and Vreed-en-Hoop while work is also expected to soon commence to convert the Esso Mc Doom and Regent Street stations to the Shell brand.

Acting CEO of the Guyana Energy Agency (GEA),

take five minutes. He advised gas station owners and other petrol dealers to obtain a copy of the relevant operational standards for gas outlets from the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) in order to operate in compliance with the relevant regulations.

He also said that the GEA is working assiduously to curb fuel smuggling, noting that the agency has been paying keen attention to fuel dealers operating out of illegal boats, back dams and other areas from where fuel is usually smuggled into the local market. He asked those involved in the illicit trade to desist from doing so since their actions do not benefit anyone, but rather contribute to, among other



**The SOL station**

Mahender Sharma said that yesterday's event demonstrates SOL's commitment to the private sector in Guyana and noted that the company's image will provide a lasting impression of that commitment. He said that figures have shown that the energy sector has contributed greatly to the GDP of Guyana, noting that the country still depend largely on fossil fuel imports.

Sharma also used the opportunity to advise vehicle owners of simple actions which can be adopted to ensure profitable gas consumption. This includes cutting down the time spent on 'warming up' the vehicle's engine, which he noted should not

issues, mechanical problems for vehicle owners.

Motorists can now enjoy the benefits of Shell's V-Power gasoline which is available at the Ramsburg service station. According to SOL Guyana, Shell V-Power gasoline is the only performance fuel available on the market, which the company noted, was created with technology developed for Ferrari Formula One racing before being adapted for road vehicles.

The company said that the V-Power gasoline was designed to actively clean and protect engines as they work, helping to keep new engines in top condition and restoring older engines to give optimum performance. □

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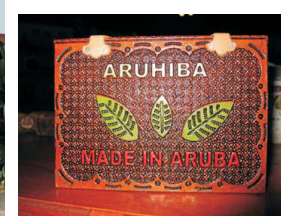
ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba.



Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars.



The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open on Sunday from 9am to 8pm. And also at Tamarijn Hotel open from 9am to 1pm. Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores. Visit our authentic tobacco farm where cigars are handmade.



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# Batch gasification facility being looked at for waste management

~ Process would convert waste to energy ~

PHILIPSBURG -- The island's electricity grid. Although no details could be obtained about the type of gasification plant and its specifications, it is understood the facility would cost government approximately US \$100 megawatts in energy to the million.

Commissioner Theo Heyliger visited a gasification plant while in Europe last year, exploring possibilities to address St. Maarten's waste disposal issues, but he was not available for comment on Wednesday. The batch gasification plant is designed to handle tons of household, non-hazardous and hazardous waste each year and produce energy. A gasification process of waste can be tailored to a location's size and needs and can function using various configurations. The most common way for the process to work is to have the waste split into three lines of four chambers connected to a burner. The use of a batch process allows the facility to continue to operate if problems arise in one part of the treatment line.

Sources indicate that the plant, if approved by government, is expected to effectively handle the waste that St. Maarten produces on a daily basis. □

## Confirming reality

Antillean Justice Minister Magali Jacoba has finally provided some clarity on the implementation of the much-discussed Brooks Tower Accord (see related article). Undocumented foreigners working and living on the island since before 2006 have from November 3 to December 15 to apply for legal residence.

There are an estimated 20,000 "illegal residents" in St. Maarten alone. Only those who qualify will be able to obtain residence permits, starting with the ones under category 1 who have lived in the Netherlands Antilles from December 31, 2001, without interruption. They need documents to prove the latter, such as passport with arrival stamp, copies of residence permit request(s), proof of insurance from SVB, papers on their local employment history and utility bills indicating residence.

Category 2 concerns those who arrived between 2002 and 2005. Group A involves those who work. The worker needs a guarantee letter from his or her employer and must earn at least NAf. 1,500 guilders (US \$834) a month. Group B involves those who live together with someone of the Dutch nationality.

Category 3 involves those who arrived after January 1, 2006, and are thus not covered by the Brooks Tower Accord. They will have to leave the island and can then apply for residence permits from abroad.

While some have questioned yet another "legalisation of illegal immigrants" after two so-called grace periods were already held before, the reality is that there are many gainfully employed and otherwise law-abiding foreigners residing on the island for many years, often paying taxes and social premiums, whose status has not been regulated up to now for whatever reason. Giving them the opportunity to do so at this stage does little more than confirm a "de facto" existing situation.

The step is also important in, for example, implementing compulsory education, because local schools constantly have to deal with children who obviously are living on the island, but currently lack the necessary papers. At the same time, regulating the status of those who can be considered legitimate residents can help law enforcement focus more on less desirable illegal immigration. All in all, taking into account the nature of St. Maarten's tourism economy and the reality of the local labour market, implementation of the Brooks Tower Accord can be considered positive. What is left now is for the – in the meantime amended – January Labour Policy to be brought in line even more with the actual situation out there as well. □



### CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Vice Consul of the United States for the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba will be in

Aruba for American Citizen Services on:

**Friday October 30, 2009: 09:00 – 15:00**

Office hours will be held at the Foreign Affairs Office in Oranjestad and on a "first come, first served" basis only.

The Vice Consul will provide the following services only:

- Accepting applications for U.S. passport;
- Accepting applications for Report of Birth Abroad to a U.S. citizen.

#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION :**

- All applicants using passport form DS-11 must appear in person
- The fee for passport applicants younger than 16 is \$82. The fee for passport applicants 16 and older using passport form DS-11 is \$97. See below for payment information.
- Passport applicants under 14 years of age must use the DS-11 passport form and must appear in person with both parents. Bring both **originals** and **copies** of the parents' passports and the child's birth certificate.
- If one parent cannot appear in person, a notarized statement of consent of renewal of the minor's passport (DS-2053) by the parent not appearing is required.
- **Please bring photocopies of all original documents, including passports.**

#### **IMPORTANT CHANGE:**

***We ask that all applicants bring a prepaid courier airway bill so that we can send your passport back from Curacao. Some express courier services are now changing fees on a monthly basis, which makes it difficult for us to establish a set fee. We apologize for any inconvenience.***

**Only cashier's checks in U.S. dollars and negotiable in the U.S. will be accepted.**

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**NO CASH OR PERSONAL CHECKS.****

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The Vice Consul will not take applications, offer advice or otherwise advise about non-immigrant visas.

To make an appointment for a non-immigrant visa at the U.S. Consulate General in Curaçao, please call: 001-303-784-7919.



# Brooks Tower Accord period November 3 to December 15

~ Six-week grace period for 'illegals' ~

PHILIPSBURG - Antillean Justice Minister Magali Jacoba is giving undocumented persons living in the Netherlands Antilles six weeks – from November 3 to December 15 – to legalise their status before she launches intense immigration controls on all five islands.

With island territories affirming to her that they are ready, Minister Jacoba has decided to implement the vaunted immigration-amnesty Brooks Tower Accord.

In keeping with that decision, during the November 3 to December 15 grace period anyone who has been residing in the Netherlands Antilles since before 2006, but does not have the relevant papers, can request temporary legal

status. After that they will have no more chances, Justice Ministry representatives told St. Maarten reporters Wednesday.

“We will be sharpening our controls [on undocumented residents],” the minister said. Undocumented residents who arrived here before 2001 or who moved to the island between 2002 and 2005 can request residence papers. “From there on, they can continue as documented residents of our country,” State Secretary for Justice Ernie Simmons told reporters. “After that they can get the documents to continue their residence.”

Anyone who arrived after 2006 must leave, but will not be penalised, and can apply from his/her country, Simmons

said.

The Brooks Tower Accord affords undocumented residents a one-year permit. During that year, authorities expect the immigrant worker to secure all the paperwork to continue applying for residence and work permission, or to leave. Immigration controls will start soon after the application period ends.

The Central Government plans to launch a massive information campaign, targeting newspaper readers, radio listeners and Web users in five languages to get the message to undocumented residents ahead of the campaign.

Minister Jacoba assured reporters that the only hurdle to implementing the agreement

– getting staff, equipment and a location – was no longer an issue. “We have the staff ready now; we also have the equipment,” Jacoba said. She had said twice earlier this month that the Brooks Tower Accord would not be implemented until all five island territories were ready. The plan is simple: undocumented persons living here can register at the new Immigration and Naturalisation Department (IND) building on weekdays between 4:00pm and 10:00pm and Saturdays from 8:00am to 4:00pm. Only persons who meet the basic criteria can register.

The agreement’s amnesty applies to persons who arrived before December 31, 2001, and between January 1, 2002, and December 31, 2005. Persons living here longest can apply on their own, proving only that they have lived on the island without interruption. Persons who arrived here in the four years 2002 through 2005 need employers to apply for them.

The Brooks Tower Accord

was signed in 2007 by former Antillean Justice Minister David Dick and the five Lt. Governors then representing the islands. The Central Government has estimated that 20,000 undocumented persons live in St. Maarten alone. State Secretary Simmons said non-nationals living here could expect no more than a two-week turnover between requesting papers and receiving them. “If you apply on November 3, you can get them back by November 15,” Simmons said.

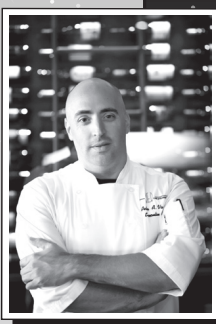
Organisers of the information campaign want to reach as many undocumented persons as possible by tailoring their print, broadcast and Web ads to the non-nationals who could become legal. “The idea is to reach the undocumented person personally,” said Jefka Alberta, who helped plan the project. “This is to get the effect of one person talking to another person.”

Ads will run in English, Dutch, Spanish, Papiamentu and, a first, Creole, and will be on-air as early as today, October 22, Alberta told reporters here. □

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# Marlin tells students why St Maarten needs them

~ S4 introducing buddy system ~

AMSTERDAM - Commissioner of Education William Marlin met with St. Maarten students in Amsterdam Wednesday evening and shared his views on why Country St. Maarten would need each and every student back on the island. Some 25 mostly first- and second-year students and a few mentors gathered at Vrije Universiteit VU (Free University) Amsterdam to listen to the commissioner. For more than two hours they hung on his every word, but they were also not afraid to pose questions on St. Maarten's development, the environment, assistance from the Netherlands and career opportunities in St. Maarten. Trying to convince the students to return home after their studies, Marlin explained the constitutional reform process and the future that was awaiting St. Maarten as an autonomous country as of October 10, 2010. He compared St. Maarten's need for new talent to an imaginary plan of airline Winair to vastly

expand its itinerary and fly all over the world. "More destinations mean more planes, and you need people to fly those Boeings," he said. Marlin said St. Maarten needed people in all fields of expertise, especially persons with education. He said St. Maarten needed more people to "come home," and it was "ridiculous" that the island territory had spent millions sending students to the Netherlands to study, but still needed to get Dutch people to come to St. Maarten and do the work. The Commissioner was critical of St. Maarteners who chose not to return to their island because life and salaries in the Netherlands were much better. "As long as you're here, it can't work down there." He said graduates and people with diplomas needed to come back and "stick around," even if they didn't become bosses in St. Maarten overnight or receive salaries equal to those in the Netherlands. He added it was a misconception that graduates returning home from their studies had

to work for government. "Government gave you the opportunity to study. It didn't give you a deposit on a job with government," he said, suggesting that there were ample opportunities for work in the private sector, or for starting up a company. Director Marva Richardson of St. Maarten Student Support Services S4, which had organized the session with the students, told them it was good to know from the outset what to focus on, so they were familiar with where they wanted to go. Richardson informed the students that S4 would be moving to its new offices in Amsterdam in November. S4 signed the rental contract on Wednesday. The contract goes into effect November 1. The current location in The Hague has been sold and S4 needs to move. S4 and its staff of six relocate to Rijswijkstraat 175 in Amsterdam-West. S4 chose Amsterdam because it is more convenient, with the largest number of first- and second-

year students studying in Amsterdam. At 199 m2, the location is a bit bigger than the one in The Hague, but the rent is lower. The savings on rent can be invested for the mentors and the "buddy system" that S4 will introduce in Amsterdam shortly. As a trial, three senior students studying at MBO, HBO and university levels will be linked to three first-year students studying at the same levels. The senior students will guide and support the younger ones. If things work out well, the buddy system will be expanded, explained Richardson. She told students at Wednesday's session that they

would be invited to visit the new location once it was open. A library and a facility where students can study and work will be set up for the students. Students generally responded very positively to the get-together with Marlin and S4 staff. It was suggested that similar sessions should be organized more often. Member of Dutch Parliament John Leerdam, whose wife is S4 Office Manager Roos Leerdam-Bulo, offered to invite the students to The Hague to visit the Second Chamber. "It will give you the opportunity to see and hear for yourself what the Dutch Parliament is all about," he said. □

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## BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

## Treasury: bailed-out firms to slash pay in Nov.



**FILE** - In this Sept. 16, 2008 file photo, The American International Group logo is shown in New York. The Obama administration's pay czar has asked American International Group to withhold some of the millions in bonuses promised to its employees. Kenneth Feinberg, the special master for executive compensation, 'has informally advised AIG not to pay the full \$198 million' employees expect to receive, according to a report Tuesday Oct. 13, 2009 from the special inspector general overseeing the \$700 billion financial bailout.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan, File)

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER,  
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — The Treasury Department is ordering companies that received billions of dollars in government bailouts to halve total compensation for their top executives. But the big reductions will not apply to pay earned before November. Kenneth Feinberg, the Treasury official leading the pay review, says average salaries for the top 25 executives are being cut 90 percent starting next month.

Feinberg says the government did not want to make executives return compensation already received this year, but the reduced pay levels will be the base for making decisions on salary in 2010.

The executives will still be subject to compensation limits as long as their companies are receiving support from the government's \$700 billion bailout fund.

**THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE.** Check back soon for further information. AP's earlier story is below.

WASHINGTON (AP) — First came the bailout. Now comes the payback.

The Treasury Department is ordering seven big companies that haven't paid back last

year's government bailouts to halve their top executives' average compensation.

The cuts apply to the 25 highest-paid executives at the companies, with salaries being slashed up to 90 percent, according to a person familiar with the matter. The companies are: Bank of America Corp., American International Group Inc., Citigroup Inc., General Motors, GMAC, Chrysler and Chrysler Financial.

Kenneth Feinberg, the Treasury official overseeing compensation at those bailed-out firms, is releasing details of his actions Thursday.

Speaking at the White House, President Barack Obama welcomed Treasury's decision and said Americans' values are offended by excessive paychecks for executives whose companies were bailed out by taxpayers. He urged Congress to pass legislation to give shareholders a voice in executive pay packages.

"It does offend our values when executives of big financial firms that are struggling pay themselves huge bonuses even as they rely on extraordinary assistance to stay afloat," Obama said.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner also praised the outcome of Feinberg's

deliberations.

"We gave him the difficult task of cutting excessive pay, striking a balance between compensation and risk taking and keeping strong management teams in place to help the economies recover — all in the public interest," Geithner said in a statement. Meanwhile, the Federal Reserve unveiled a proposal Thursday that for the first time would police banks' pay policies to ensure they don't encourage employees to take reckless gambles like those that contributed to the financial crisis.

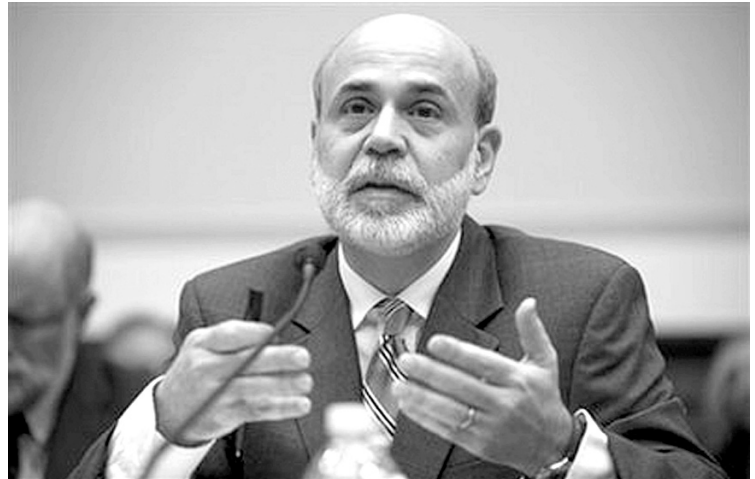
Unlike the Treasury plan, the Fed proposal would cover thousands of banks, including many that never received a bailout. But the central bank would not actually set compensation. Instead, the Fed would review — and could veto — pay policies that could cause too much risk-taking by executives, traders or loan officers.

"The Federal Reserve is working to ensure that compensation packages appropriately tie rewards to longer-term performance and do not create undue risk for the firm or the financial system," said Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke.

Under the proposal, the 28 biggest banks would develop their own plans to make sure compensation doesn't spur undue risk taking. If the Fed approves, the plan would be adopted and bank supervisors would monitor compliance.

At smaller banks — where compensation is typically less — Fed supervisors will conduct reviews. Those banks don't have to submit plans.

The Fed refused to identify the 28 banks that will have to submit plans. But Citigroup, Bank of America and Wells Fargo & Co. are usually included on such lists. Nearly 6,000 banks regulated by the Fed would be covered. □



**FILE** - In this Oct. 1, 2009 file photo, Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington before the House Financial Services Committee. Bernanke on Monday, Oct. 19 called for the United States to eventually whittle down its record-high budget deficits and for countries like China to get their consumers to spend more, moves that would help combat skewed global trade and investment flows that contributed to the financial crisis.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci, file)

## Fed proposes to police bank pay for 1st time

By JEANNINE AVERSA,  
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve for the first time would police banks' pay policies to ensure they don't encourage employees to take reckless gambles like those that contributed to the financial crisis, according to a proposal unveiled Thursday. Unlike a Treasury plan to slash pay at certain companies that were bailed out with large sums of taxpayer money, the Fed proposal would cover thousands of banks, including many that never received a bailout.

The Fed would not actually set compensation. Instead, the central bank would review — and could veto — pay policies that could cause too much risk-taking by executives, traders or loan officers.

It's the Fed's latest response to criticism that it failed to crack down on lax lending, irresponsible risk taking and other practices that many blame for contributing to the worst financial crisis since the 1930s.

The Fed's goal is to make sure banks' pay policies don't encourage top managers or other employees to take gambles that could endanger the company, the broader financial system or the economy.

"Compensation practices at some banking organizations have led to misaligned incentives and excessive risk-taking, contributing to bank losses and financial instability," said Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke. "The Federal Reserve is working to ensure that compensation packages appropriately tie rewards to longer-term performance and do not create undue risk for the firm or the financial system."

Under the proposal, the 28 biggest banks would develop their own plans to make sure compensation doesn't spur undue risk taking. If the Fed approves, the plan would be adopted and bank supervisors would monitor compliance.

To get a broad picture of industry pay, the Fed also will internally compare and contrast results across the big banks. It is not anticipated that the central bank will make public the results of this so-called "horizontal review," Fed officials said. □



# FDA warns: Swine flu scams lurk on the Internet

By **MARILYNN MARCHIONE**,  
AP Medical Writer

Air “sterilizers.” A photon machine. Supplement pills to boost the immune system. Protective shampoos and face masks. Even fake Tamiflu. These and other products making bogus claims to prevent or treat swine flu are flooding the Internet as scam artists prey on the public’s fears while the vaccine is delayed and real Tamiflu is rationed.

Every problem, it would seem, is a sales opportunity. Some of the products appear to have been pitched for other emergencies, such as one called “Quake Kare” and masks and purifiers sold during the SARS scare.

Federal officials have sent warning letters to promoters of more than 140 swine flu-related products, including well-known alternative medicine advocate Dr. Andrew Weil for his “Immune Support Formula.”

Consumer Reports also has warned subscribers to be wary.

“It’s harmful, disappointing, frustrating to see folks take advantage of the public like this,” said Dr. John Santa, who evaluates health claims for Consumer Reports.

Fraudulent products emerged shortly after swine flu did last spring — about 10 a day, said Alyson Saben, head of a swine flu consumer fraud team formed by the Food and Drug Administration. The pace slowed over the summer as the flu abated, but “it’s picked up” in recent weeks, she said. “We are seeing new sites pop up.”

Most worrisome: sites that claim to sell Tamiflu without a prescription. The FDA bought and tested five such products. One contained powdered talc and generic Tylenol — no Tamiflu. Several others contained some Tamiflu but were not approved for sale in the U.S.

“We have no idea of the conditions under which they were manufactured. They could contain contaminated, counterfeit, impure or subpotent or superpotent

ingredients,” Saben said.

Tamiflu and Relenza are the only drugs recommended for treating swine flu.

Rogue Web sites are not the only ones trying to cash in on flu fears. Makers of some well-established products are making claims that may be close to the line, the FDA says.

This week, the makers of Dial Soap, Kleenex, Clorox and other big brands launched a joint promotional campaign costing up to \$1 million. The FDA is reviewing the campaign, which includes a video that says:

“Germs are tiny organisms that can cause disease. According to the CDC, up to 80 percent of infectious diseases, like the flu, are spread by your hands. That’s why frequent, proper handwashing is so important in preventing spread of the flu, other viruses and germs. An antibacterial soap like Dial Complete foaming hand wash kills 99.9 percent of germs.” Flu is caused by a virus, so killing bacteria is of uncertain benefit.

The campaign is “not being specific down to swine flu,” said Scott Moffitt, an official with Dial Corp.’s parent company, Germany-based Henkel AG. He also contends the video is not misleading, even though the germ-killing claim follows a sentence about flu and other viruses.

One product that drew a warning letter from the FDA is the Photon Genie, a gadget that delivers “energy waves.” Its Web site claimed it “helps strengthen the immune system, and a strong immune system is KEY to preventing swine flu symptoms and KEY to treating swine flu.”

The site has since removed the swine flu claim but “other claims remain,” Saben said.


The group behind the Web site, the Skilling Institute of Phoenix, “is not marketing, and will not market in the future, any product that is intended to diagnose, mitigate, prevent, treat or cure the H1N1 flu virus,” its director, Warren Starnes, wrote in an e-mail. Some products the FDA warned about contain silver, such as “Swine Flu...Gone,”

made by Secrets of Eden.

“Spray ‘Swine Flu...Gone’ with ionic silver on your hands and on any surface where these germs may exist and kill the virus,” its site had claimed. □

This undated image released by the Food and Drug Administration shows the web site [swineflugone.com](http://swineflugone.com), advertising the product ‘Swine Flu...Gone,’ produced by Secrets of Eden. Secrets of Eden sells supplements and oils with a biblical flair, said its general manager, Rick Strawcutter, a former pastor in Adrian, Mich. The staff ‘got a little carried away’ on marketing for one product and ‘drew the ire of the FDA,’ he said.

(AP Photo/FDA)



**Stop Swine Flu in Its Tracks**

Buy More Swine Flu...Gone and Save!  
One 2oz. Spritzer Bottle \$9.95

**Buy Now**

Swine Flu is a virus spread by airborne and physical contact.

The best way to deal with the Swine Flu influenza virus is prevention.

Since the Swine Flu virus is spread through the air by people coughing and sneezing and by contact with contaminated surfaces, it is important to make sure that surfaces you come into contact with are sanitized and free of active virus germs.

Spray Swine Flu...Gone with ionic silver on your hands and on any surface where these germs may exist and kill the virus. Wash hands frequently and keep them out of your mouth, nose and eyes as these are the entry points for the influenza virus.

The handy 2oz. size is small enough to carry in your pocket and large enough to last and provide good value.

Copyright 2009 The Secrets of Eden Swine Flu...Gone Ingredients

These claims have not been evaluated by the FDA and should not be relied upon as medical advice. No part of this product should be considered as diagnostic or a prescription for any medical condition. If you think you are sick, you should seek competent medical advice. This product is intended as a cleaning agent.



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# Judge orders retrial in Travolta extortion case



**File** - U.S. actor John Travolta and wife Kelly Preston leave the court building in Nassau, Bahamas, in this Sept. 23, 2009 file photo. The trial of two people accused of trying to extort John Travolta following the death of his son in the Bahamas has ended Wednesday Oct. 21, 2009 in a mistrial after a lawmaker suggested the still-deliberating jury had acquitted one of the defendants.

(AP Photo/Kris Ingraham, File)

By JUAN McCARTNEY, Associated Press Writer  
NASSAU, Bahamas — A judge has ordered a mistrial in the case of an alleged extortion attempt against John Travolta

and a top court official said Thursday a new trial is not likely to start before next year.

Senior Justice Anita Allen said Wednesday night she was reluctantly ordering a new trial because a politician announced that one of the defendants would be freed, giving the appearance of an improper leak from the jury room.

"The dilemma that we face is great," Allen said in court. "I am erring on the side of caution. Justice must be transparent."

Bahamas chief magistrate Roger Gomez said that the new trial is not likely to start until early 2010 because the court's calendar is full through the rest of this year.

Ambulance driver Tarino Lightbourne and his attorney, politician Pleasant Bridgewater, were accused of demanding \$25 million from Travolta to keep them from releasing private information about the death of Travolta's 16-year-old son Jett at the family vacation home in Grand Bahama on Jan. 2. They denied the allegations.

Bridgewater resigned her seat in the Bahamas Senate after she was charged in the case.

Jurors were still deliberating when lawmaker Picewell Forbes announced to an audience at a Progressive Liberal Party convention that party member Bridgewater would be cleared.

"Pleasant is a free woman, PLPs! God is good, PLPs! Pleasant is a free woman!" Forbes said, prompting cheers and an outburst of song from the crowd.

Soon after, Alex Storr, the party's deputy chairman-elect, said Forbes had misspoken. He said the information was incorrect and no verdict had been issued. He apologized on behalf of the party.

But the judge said that Forbes' comment gave her no choice but to dismiss the jurors.

The jury, which deliberated about nine hours, had spent a

month listening to testimony including from Travolta, who flew to the Bahamas to take the stand. Michael Ossi, one of the actor's attorneys, said his client would cooperate in any way possible and testify again if necessary.

"We are committed to seeing this through, and we are committed to seeing justice served," Ossi said. "And whatever the prosecution asks us to do is exactly what we will do."

Lawyers for the defendants told the nine-member jury that their clients were set up by lawyers for Travolta. They also said authorities misinterpreted their actions.

The alleged plot centered on a document that would have released emergency responders from liability if the family refused an ambulance ride to the hospital for Jett, who suffered a deadly seizure.

Travolta said he signed the waiver because he initially wanted his autistic son flown directly to Florida for treatment. But he later changed his mind, and the document did not come into play.

The actor testified that Lightbourne threatened to sell stories to the media suggesting that he was at fault in his son's death. □

## Lil Wayne pleads to attempted gun possession



**Rapper Lil Wayne enters Manhattan criminal court, Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2009, in New York. A hearing on a DNA profiling technique used in the rapper's 2007 gun-possession case was due to start Wednesday.**

By JENNIFER PELTZ  
NEKESA MUMBI MOODY,  
Associated Press Writers

NEW YORK — In the midst of a career surge that has made him one of rap's biggest stars, Lil Wayne is bracing for a year behind bars after pleading guilty Thursday in a two-year-old gun case.

A glum Lil Wayne said little as he admitted illegally having a loaded gun on his tour bus in 2007, moving to end a case that had churned along as he collected Grammys and gold records. He's expected to get a year in jail at his sentencing, set for February.

The plea, which came as he boasted the country's No. 1 pop song, makes Lil Wayne the latest in a long line of rappers to face incarceration after topping the charts.

(AP Photo/Louis Lanzano)

Arguably rap's most popular artist, Lil Wayne somberly answered his judge's questions with "yes, sir" and "no, sir" as he pleaded guilty to a felony charge of attempted criminal possession of a weapon.

He acknowledged he had a loaded .40-caliber semiautomatic gun when the bus was stopped shortly after a Manhattan concert on July 22, 2007. His lawyer had previously disputed the gun was the rapper's, in part by questioning the reliability of a highly sensitive DNA test that prosecutors said tied him to the weapon.

State Supreme Court Justice Charles Solomon warned Lil Wayne that he wouldn't be able later to withdraw the plea, as some people try to do.

"I'm not one of those people,"

said the rapper, who sat in court in jeans and a hooded parka. He pulled up the hood and didn't speak as he left the courthouse with members of his entourage, who piled into four black SUVs. He's due back in court Dec. 15 before his sentencing date, which has yet to be set.

He had faced at least 3 1/2 years in prison if convicted of the original weapons-possession charges against him.

Lil Wayne, 27, also is scheduled for trial in Arizona in March on felony drug possession and weapons charges stemming from a January 2008 arrest at a U.S. Border Patrol checkpoint. He has pleaded not guilty in that case. In March, an Atlanta judge dismissed felony drug charges against Lil Wayne. His lawyer had said the rapper wasn't staying in the hotel room where police said the drugs were found in 2006.

Over the past two years, Lil Wayne — born Dwayne Carter — has emerged as the best-selling figure in music. His "Tha Carter III" topped all album sales in 2008 with 2.8 million copies sold off of such hits as the No. 1 smash "Lollipop." His Grammys include last year's best rap solo performance award, for "A Milli." □

## Preview of MJ movie shows him in fine voice



**FILE** - In this April 20, 2002 file picture, Michael Jackson performs 'Dangerous' during the taping of the American Bandstand's 50th anniversary show in Pasadena, Calif.

(AP Photo/Kevork Djansezian, file)

By MESFIN FEKADU,  
Associated Press Writer  
NEW YORK — A 12-minute

clip of the new Michael Jackson movie "This Is It" shows a strong-voiced King of Pop enthusiastically practicing some of his biggest hits.

Jackson is shown warming up his vocals during a performance of "Human Nature." That's followed by Jackson running through the song in various outfits.

Later, he playfully dances with a woman as he sings "The Way You Make Me Feel," touching her thigh and holding her waist.

Jackson died June 25 at 50. He was preparing for his comeback concerts in London at the time. "This Is It" — based on rehearsals for those concerts — will premiere globally on Tuesday and run for two weeks. □





In this Monday, Oct. 19, 2009 photo, a U.S. Marine helicopter departs leaving a cloud of dust after delivering an injured boy, who had been run over by a tractor earlier in the day, at Forward Operating Base Dwyer, in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan.

*Associated Press*

## U.S. spokesman: Afghan election will not settle all

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House on Thursday forcefully rejected criticism from former Vice President Dick Cheney and other Republicans that President Barack Obama's Afghanistan decision is taking too long. "What Vice President Cheney calls dithering, President Obama calls his solemn responsibility to the men and women in uniform and to the American public," Gibbs said. "I think we've all seen what happens when somebody doesn't take that responsibility seriously." The previous top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Gen. David McKiernan,

submitted a request for more troops that went unfulfilled by former President George W. Bush.

Obama partly granted that request in March when he ordered an additional 21,000 U.S. troops to go to Afghanistan this year. Cheney said in a speech Wednesday night that Obama needs to "do what it takes to win" and that "signals of indecision out of Washington hurt our allies and embolden our adversaries."

Cheney also took issue with statements out of the White House that the Obama administration had to start from scratch to develop a strategy for the 8-year-old war.

The Bush administration presented to Obama's transition team the review of the Afghanistan war that it undertook just

before leaving office and was asked to keep it under wraps, Cheney said.

"I have not looked at that review," Gibbs said. "I don't know whether what he describes is accurate." Gibbs said Cheney's comments were curious because the vice president wasn't focused on Afghanistan for seven years while he was in office and "given the fact that an increase in troops sat on desks in this White House, including the vice president's, for more than eight months, a resource request filled by President Obama in March."

Meanwhile, Obama worked Thursday on a strategy to prevent fraud from occurring in Afghanistan in its runoff presidential election set for Nov. 7.

*Continued on Next Page*

## Garbage trucks lead to discovery of dead Fla. girl



**Florida Department of Law Enforcement**  
Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse  
**AMBER ALERT**  
**ENDANGERED**  
**SOMER RENEE THOMPSON**

Date Missing: 10/19/2009  
Missing From: Orange Park, FL  
Birth Date: 4/5/2002  
Height: 3' 8"  
Weight: 65 lbs  
Sex: Female  
Eyes: Brown  
Hair: Brown  
Race: White

Narrative: A Florida AMBER Alert has been issued for Somer Thompson. She was last seen in the area of West Gano Avenue and Deberry Avenue in Orange Park. She was last seen wearing a black shirt under a cranberry colored sweat suit with pink stripes running down the arms and legs. She possibly has a red bow in her hair and may have been wearing a white hat and a white scarf.

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If you have any information concerning the whereabouts of this endangered person, please contact the Clay County Sheriff's Office at 1-877-277-6911 or 911

This undated photo released by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement shows Somer Renee Thompson, 7, who was last seen Monday Oct. 19, 2009 in Orange Park, Fla. A Florida Amber Alert has been issued for Somer Thompson.

*Associated Press*

By BRENT KALLESTAD

Associated Press Writer

ORANGE PARK, Fla. — After 7-year-old Somer Thompson vanished on her way home from school, investigators tailed nine garbage trucks from her neighborhood to a Georgia landfill nearly 50 miles away, then methodically picked through the trash as each rig spilled its load.

*Continued on Page B5*



Anti-fascist demonstrators clash with British police outside the offices of BBC in west London, Thursday Oct. 22, 2009.

*Associated Press*


## Anti-fascist protesters breach security at BBC

RAPHAEL G. SATTER

Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — Anti-fascist protesters broke into the BBC's west London headquarters on Thursday ahead of a far-right party leader's appearance on a leading political debate show. Hundreds of protesters gathered outside the BBC Television Center in an increasingly rowdy rally against British National Party chief Nick Griffin, who is due to appear on the broadcaster's "Question Time" program. At one point about 25 people breached a police cordon and ran into the center's lobby.

*Continued on Page B6*



**Price of a barrel of petroleum**  
**US\$ 81.19**  
↑0.18





White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs conducts the daily briefing at the White House in Washington, Thursday, Oct. 22, 2009.

**AFGHAN ELECTION** from the White House briefing and recommendations  
*Continued from Page B1* Situation Room, Obama and from the U.S. ambassador to  
 In an hour-long video conference other top advisers heard a Afghanistan, Karl Eikenberry.

*Associated Press*

Gibbs would not specify what steps the U.S. is taking with Afghanistan's Independent Election Commission to avoid the problems that plagued the original election on Aug. 20. President Hamid Karzai faces his main challenger, ex-Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah, in the runoff. Though the Obama administration hopes it will end weeks of acrimony over Afghanistan's election, officials are under no illusion that merely re-staging the vote will produce a legitimate partner as the U.S. tries to stabilize the country and keep the Taliban from re-taking control and re-establishing a safe haven for al-Qaida. "Having a partner is going to take more than just an election," Gibbs said. Regardless, Obama is not necessarily going to put off his decision on whether to send

more troops to Afghanistan until after the run-off election, as some — including Democratic Sen. John Kerry — have strongly suggested he do. "It could be before the runoff. It might be after the runoff," Gibbs said. Faced with dwindling public support for the 8-year-old war, Obama's national security team is weighing whether the United States should send more troops to the region. His team is considering as few as 10,000 and as many as 80,000 more Americans in the region, as well as whether to order more forces to fight the Taliban in Afghanistan or to focus more narrowly on al-Qaida terrorists believed to be hiding in Pakistan. The U.S. already has about 68,000 troops in Afghanistan, and NATO nations have supplied 36,000 more. □



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# Drug raids target Mexican cartel, nab 300-plus

DEVLIN BARRETT

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the largest single strike at Mexican drug operations in the United States, federal agents arrested more than 300 suspects in raids across the country aimed at La Familia, the newest and most violent of the cartels.

La Familia has grown quickly a reputation for dominating the methamphetamine trade and for displays of grotesque violence, including beheadings. Federal officials said the cartel has a vast network pumping drugs throughout the United States, specializing in methamphetamine.

Attorney General Eric Holder pledged to keep hitting La Familia and the cartels that have unleashed a wave of bloodshed in Mexico. He said the federal agents would attack them at all levels, from the leadership to their supply chain tentacles reaching far into the United States.

“To the extent that they do grow back, we have to work with our Mexican counterparts to cut off the heads of these snakes, to get at the heads of the cartels; indict them; try them; if they’re in Mexico, extradite them to the United States,” said Holder.

Drug Enforcement Administrator Michele Leonhart said La Familia has grown very fast, fueled in part by an odd belief system that opposes Mexican use of methamphetamine, but advocates pumping vast quantities of the drug to Americans.

La Familia is based in the state of Michoacan in southwestern Mexico.

The Obama administration has directed more agents, material and money to fight the cartel’s presence along

the Mexican-U.S. border, but the arrests over the past two days occurred far beyond that region.

“The problem is not just along the southwest border, it is all over our country now,” said Kenneth Melson, head of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

In Dallas, Texas, 77 suspects were charged by a number of different federal and local law enforcement agencies.

Over the past two days, more than 3,000 federal agents and police officers carried out arrests in more than a dozen states, as part of a long-running Project Coronado that has netted nearly 1,200 arrests over almost four years.

The suspects face a

combination of federal and state charges.

In the latest legal assault on La Familia, a New York grand jury also has indicted an alleged cartel leader, Servando Gomez-Martinez. He is linked to one of the more brazen acts of cartel violence.

In July, after a dozen Mexican police officers were found murdered, officials say Gomez-Martinez publicly proclaimed his membership in La Familia and said the cartel was locked in a battle with Mexican police.

Many of the new charges are centered on the cartel’s methamphetamine distribution, but other charges involve cocaine and marijuana, the officials said. □



Attorney General Eric Holder, second from left, speaks during a news conference at the Justice Department in Washington, Thursday, Oct. 22, 2009, to announce the largest single strike at a Mexican drug cartel operating in the U.S. - the arrest of more than 300 people in a series of drug raids across the country. From left are, FBI Director Robert Mueller, Holder, Acting Drug Enforcement Administrator (DEA) Michele Leonhart and Acting Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) Director Kenneth Melson.

Associated Press

## Airport guard pleads not guilty to Obama threat

DAVID PORTER,

Associated Press Writer

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP) — An airport security guard who was overheard saying he had “cut a hole in a fence to be able to shoot” Barack Obama pleaded not guilty Thursday to making terroristic threats against the president.

John Brek appeared via video feed from the Essex County Jail, where he has been held since his arrest Tuesday night. Clad in an orange prison jumpsuit, the 55-year-old Brek didn’t speak during the hearing but had his plea entered by his attorney, Moses Rambarran. Municipal Judge Amilkar Velez-Lopez rejected the

state’s request to raise Brek’s bail to \$500,000, and instead raised it from \$100,000 to \$200,000.

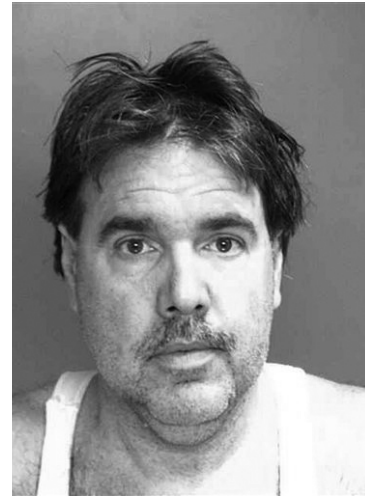
Brek also pleaded not guilty to possession of hollow point bullets, which is prohibited in New Jersey, and to receiving stolen property for allegedly having a stolen gun among the more than 40 firearms recovered from his residence Tuesday. The bail on those charges remained at \$20,000. “We really have to take these matters seriously,” Velez-Lopez said. “He had a very real possibility of carrying out those threats. He would have been in close proximity to the president.”

Rambarran said his client “knows he has some serious challenges against him and knows he must go through legal channels to get himself vindicated.”

He said Brek’s arrest raises constitutional issues.

“In the United States of America, we are allowed to make offensive, distasteful, repugnant statements,” he said. “These are not prosecutable as a crime.”

An airline worker standing at a coffee cart at Newark Liberty International Airport on Tuesday afternoon heard Brek saying he “cut a hole in a fence to be able to shoot” Obama, according to the arrest warrant. □



This photo provided by the Essex County Sheriff’s Department shows John Brek. Brek, a private security guard at Newark Liberty International Airport, was arrested on charges of threatening Barack Obama the night before the president was to fly there.

Associated Press

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# Congress extends hate crime protections to gays



**JIM ABRAMS**  
Associated Press Writer  
WASHINGTON (AP)

— Physical attacks on people based on their sexual orientation will join the list of federal hate crimes in a major expansion of the civil rights-

era law Congress approved Thursday and sent to President Barack Obama.

A priority of the late Democratic Sen. Edward M. Kennedy that had been on the congressional agenda for a decade, the measure

expands current law to include crimes based on sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability. The measure is named for Matthew Shepard, a homosexual college student in the Western state of Wyoming who was murdered 11 years ago.

To assure its passage after years of frustrated efforts, Democratic supporters attached the measure to a must-pass \$680 billion defense policy bill the Senate approved 68-29. The House of Representatives already passed the defense bill this month.

Many Republicans, normally staunch supporters of defense bills, voted against the bill because of the hate crimes provision.

“The inclusion of the controversial language of the hate crimes legislation, which is unrelated to our national defense, is deeply troubling,” said Republican Sen. Jeff Sessions.

The hate crimes law, enacted after the 1968 assassination of civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr., centered on crimes based on race, color, religion or national origin.

The expansion has long been sought by civil rights and gay rights groups. Conservatives

have opposed it, arguing that it creates a special class of victims. They also have been concerned that it could silence clergymen or others opposed to homosexuality on religious or philosophical grounds.

Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation’s largest gay rights group, hailed the bill as “our nation’s first major piece of civil rights legislation for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Too many in our community have been devastated by hate violence.” Some 45 states have hate crimes statutes, and the bill would not change current practices where hate crimes are generally investigated and prosecuted by state and local officials.

But it does broaden the narrow range of actions — such as attending school or voting — that can trigger federal involvement and allows the federal government to step in if the Justice Department certifies that a state is unwilling or unable to follow through on an alleged hate crime.

The measure also provides federal grants to help state and local governments prosecute hate crimes and funds programs to combat hate crimes committed by

juveniles.

“As we learned in the civil rights era, sometimes communities need assistance and resources from the federal government when they have to confront the most emotional and dangerous kinds of crimes,” said Sen. Michael Bennet, a Democrat.

The bill also creates a federal crime to penalize attacks against U.S. service members on account of their service.

At the urging of Republicans the bill was changed to strengthen free speech protections to assure that a religious leader or any other person cannot be prosecuted on the basis of his or her speech, beliefs or associations.

“Nothing in this legislation diminishes an American’s freedom of religion, freedom of speech or press or the freedom to assemble,” said Democratic Sen. Ben Cardin. “Let me be clear. The Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act targets acts, not speech.”

That did not convince Republican Sen. Jim DeMint, who said the bill was a “dangerous step” toward thought crimes. He suggested the bill might “serve as a warning to people not to speak out too loudly about their religious views.” □

*U.S. votes to begin*

## crafting ‘net neutrality’ rules

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal regulators took an important step Thursday toward prohibiting broadband providers from favoring or discriminating against certain kinds of Internet traffic.

Despite the concerns of the agency’s two Republicans and prominent telecommunications companies, the Federal Communications Commission voted to begin writing so-called “network neutrality” regulations.

Proponents say the rules would prevent phone and cable companies from abusing their control over the market for broadband access. □



In this June 16, 2009 file photo, then Federal Communications Commission Chairman nominee Julius Genachowski testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington. The FCC is set to vote the week of Oct. 19, 2009, on a proposal by the agency’s chairman, Julius Genachowski, to begin crafting rules intended to guarantee that Internet users can go to any legal Web site and access any legal online service that they want.

*Associated Press*

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**GARBAGE TRUCKS****Continued from Page B1**

They sorted through 100,000 tons of garbage before their worst fears were realized: Sticking out of the rubbish were a child's lifeless legs. Sheriff Rick Beseler said the quick discovery of Somer's body on Wednesday, two days after she disappeared, may have saved precious evidence that could lead to her killer.

"Had we not done this tactic, I believe that body would have been buried beneath hundreds of tons of debris, probably would have gone undiscovered forever," he said Thursday.

An autopsy to establish the cause of death was performed Thursday, but authorities would not disclose their findings. At a news conference, Bessler would not say if Somer had been sexually assaulted or answer other questions about the condition of the body.

"I fear for our community until we bring this person in. This is a heinous crime that's been committed," Beseler said. "And we're going to work as

hard as we can to make this community safe."

Searching landfills is common when children disappear, but it is unusual to try to zero in on them more efficiently by tracking a neighborhood's garbage trucks, said Ernie Allen, president of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

"Time is the enemy in these cases and the sheriff used every resource," Allen said.

The sheriff said police have questioned more than 155 registered sex offenders in the area so far. State online records show a remarkably large number of sex offenders — 88 — live in Orange Park, a Jacksonville suburb of about 9,000 people just south of Jacksonville Naval Air Station.

Beseler would not say whether investigators believe the crime was committed by more than one person.

Somer's father and other family members were "torn up" upon hearing the news, aunt Laura Holt said.

As for the killer or killers, "I don't think they deserve to live," Holt said. "I don't think there's anything worse that a person can do — to kill a child and dump her in the dump like a piece of trash?"

The girl disappeared is a heavily populated residential area about a mile from a stretch of fast-food restaurants and other businesses. Investigators will presumably try to pinpoint the trash bin or garbage can where she was dumped, based on the trash around her and the truck's pickup route.

Tuesday was trash day in Somer's neighborhood, and it was Detective Bruce Owens' idea to track the garbage trucks to the landfill they use in Folkston, Ga., 48 miles way.

"At that time I realized that this is probably not going to turn out good," the 10-year veteran of the Clay County Sheriff's Office told The Florida Times-Union. But he said he had been expecting to find perhaps a backpack or a piece of clothing, not a body.



**Mary Justino, public information officer for the Clay County Sheriffs Department, speaks at a news conference regarding the Somer Thompson investigation, Thursday, Oct. 22, 2009, in Orange Park, Fla. Clay County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Mary Justino says authorities have confirmed that the body of a small girl found in a Georgia landfill is Somer.**

*Associated Press*

The sheriff said he had told the girl's mother, Dena Thompson, to prepare for the worst, and called her after receiving the news Wednesday night.

"Needless to say, she was absolutely devastated," Beseler said. "It was the hardest phone call I've ever had to make in my life, and I hope I never have to make another one like that."

Somer vanished on Monday during her mile-long walk home from school. Authorities said she squabbled with another child and walked ahead of the group.

She was last seen outside a vacant house that was on her route home, sheriff's spokeswoman Mary Justino said. Investigators are examining the house for

evidence, Justino said.

On Thursday, flowers and dozens of teddy bears were heaped around an oak tree across the street from Somer's home.

Somer "was always happy unless she couldn't find anyone to play with," neighbor Robert Ocain said. "She trusted anybody. Honestly, I think all the kids around here do."

At the tree, Catherine Sullivan held her teary-eyed 5-year-old daughter, Nya Frederick.

They drove to the Thompsons' neighborhood from Jacksonville because Sullivan wanted to show her child the dangers of being too friendly with strangers.

"She seemed to understand when I explained to her her mommy wouldn't see her anymore," the mother said. □

## More than 1,100 feds, L.A. police conduct gang sweep

**ROBERT JABLON,**  
**Associated Press Writer**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — More than 1,100 FBI agents and police officers spread out through South Los Angeles, banging on doors before dawn Thursday in a crackdown against a gang implicated in drug dealing and violent crime, authorities said.

"They have a vise grip on the neighborhood, and we are going to release that grip this morning," LAPD Deputy Chief Kirk Albanese said, referring to the Rolling 40s street gang.

Agents and officers went to 47 locations, serving arrest warrants for 74 people charged with federal or state crimes, mostly involving drugs or weapons. More than 30 have been indicted on federal charges that could carry sentences ranging from 20 years to life, FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller said.

The sweep, the culmination of an 18-month investigation, netted several gun seizures and 48 arrests by late morning, authorities said. The suspects were handcuffed and taken to Exposition Park, where they waited in a parking lot to be bused to jail.

"Families get to raise their children, send the kids to school, without as much fear involving this particular street gang. ... The communities are held hostage, in a sense," Albanese said. Eimiller said well over 500 people have been arrested since May in 10 Southern California anti-gang sweeps involving federal and local officials.

Thursday's operation also took place in the midst of a nationwide series of raids against a Mexico-based drug cartel.

Over the past two days, more than 300 people have been arrested in more than a dozen states, including California. The arrests are aimed at the U.S. operations of the La Familia Mexican drug cartel.

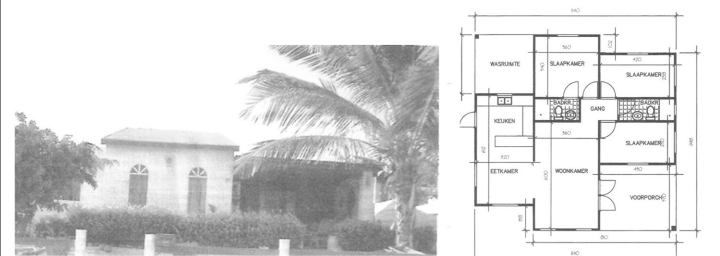
The Los Angeles gang sweep was unrelated, Eimiller said.

"This is a local ... violent street gang. They were targeted in this investigation based on the level of violence," Eimiller said.

In recent years, federal, state and local officials have staged a series of crackdowns against street gangs they accuse of running drugs and terrorizing neighborhoods with drug sales, robberies and killings.

Last week, federal immigration announced nearly 300 people had been arrested in the Los Angeles area during a six-month national anti-gang operation that ended Sept. 30. □

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This is an image taken from TV showing British National Party chief Nick Griffin during the BBC programme Question Time Thursday Oct. 22, 2009. Hundreds of protesters gathered outside the BBC Television Center in a rowdy rally against British National Party chief Nick Griffin, who appeared on the broadcaster's "Question Time" program.

#### ANTI FASCIST PROTESTERS Continued from Page B1

BBC footage showed some being pulled across the floor by their arms and legs by security. The broadcaster said the protesters were "escorted promptly" from the building.

Associated Press

"Shame on the BBC!" one female protester yelled as she was being dragged out.

Scotland Yard said three officers were injured in the protests, and two people were arrested for alleged violent disorder.

The BBC later broadcast footage of Griffin arriving in the building and taking his place on the "Question Time" panel to scattered applause. Justice Secretary Jack Straw, a senior member of the governing Labour Party, was seen sitting across from Griffin on the show's panel.

Question Time gathers Britain's leading politicians, journalists and other public figures to discuss questions from a studio audience. The three-decade-old program has become something of national institution, and many have condemned Griffin's invitation as awarding his far-right group an undeserved aura of political respectability.

The BBC said that, as a publicly funded broadcaster, it must cover all political parties that have a national presence. Earlier this year the party won two European Union parliament seats, gaining 6 percent of British votes in European polls. It has no seats in the British Parliament.

The whites-only BNP opposes immigration and claims to fight for "indigenous" Britons. Griffin has a conviction for racial hatred and has denied the Holocaust in the past.

But the party has tried to shed its thuggish image and enter the political mainstream.

The University of Cambridge-educated Griffin said he expected a hostile reception, but had a right to be heard, and insisted his views had been misrepresented.

"If these people would only let us say what we want to say and then argue with what we've actually got to say instead of creating monsters and then being wound up about the monsters, everyone would get on far better," Griffin said before the show.

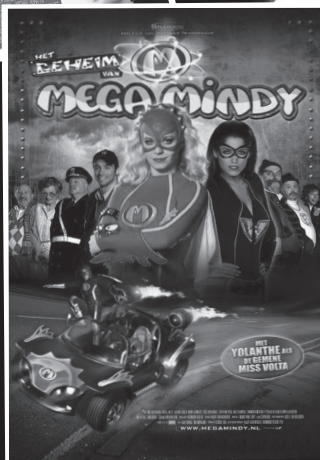
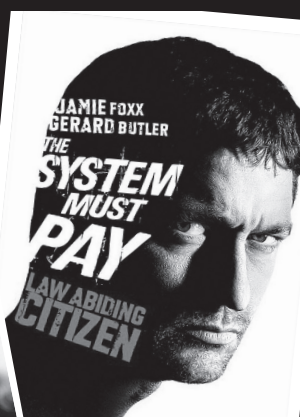
The head of the Muslim Council of Britain, Muhammad Abdul Bari, said "allowing the BNP to air its toxic views will increase Islamophobia and give the BNP aura of respectability needed to spread their message of hate."

Prime Minister Gordon Brown said Griffin's appearance would expose the party's "racist and bigoted" views.

The BBC is wary of government interference in its political coverage. In the 1980s, the Conservative government banned radio and TV appearances by members of the IRA-linked Sinn Fein party. The broadcaster hired actors to read their words instead. □



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## SCHEDULE FOR WEEK OF OCTOBER 22 - OCTOBER 28

\*matinee: Friday and Saturday | late show: Friday and Saturday

### AT RENAISSANCE - ORANJESTAD

PG	TOY STORY 2 3D	4:00	6:00		
NEW	matinee:	12:00	2:00	late show:	
R	THE PRIVATE LIVE OF PIPPA LEE	6:45	9:00		NEW
	matinee:			late show:	11:15
PG	HET GEHEIM VAN MEGA MINDY	3:30	5:15	7:15	9:15
	matinee:	12:00	1:45	late show:	11:00
PG	FAME	5:00	7:15	9:30	
	matinee:	12:30	2:45	late show:	11:45
R	FINAL DESTINATION 4			8:00	10:00
	matinee:			late show:	12:00
R	SORORITY ROW	4:15	6:30	8:45	
	matinee:	1:45		late show:	11:00
PG	SUSKE & WISKE	4:30			
	matinee:	12:15	2:30	late show:	
R	THE STEPFATHER	1:15	6:15	8:30	
	matinee:		3:45	late show:	11:00

### AT PASEO HERENCIA

PG-13	COUPLES RETREAT	5:00	7:30	9:45	
	matinee:	12:00	2:30	late show:	12:00
R	LAW ABIDING CITIZEN		6:00	8:45	NEW
	matinee:	12:30	3:15	late show:	11:30
PG	TOY STORY 2 3D		4:15	6:15	
NEW	matinee:	12:15	2:15	late show:	
R	FINAL DESTINATION 4		8:15	10:15	
	matinee:			late show:	12:15
R	ZOMBIELAND	4:00	6:00	8:00	10:00
	matinee:	12:00	2:00	late show:	12:00
PG-13	SURROGATE	4:15	6:30	8:45	
	matinee:	1:45		late show:	11:15
R	THE STEPFATHER		6:00	8:30	
	matinee:	12:45	3:15	late show:	11:00



# Taliban dig in as Pakistani army slowly advances

ISHTIAQ MAHSUD  
ZARAR KHAN

Associated Press Writers

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP) — Residents fleeing a six-day-old Pakistani army offensive in a Taliban stronghold along the Afghan border reported Thursday that the insurgents are digging in for a fight and travel the roads freely.

Tired and dusty refugees arriving in the northwestern town of Dera Ismail Khan from different parts of South Waziristan reported intense army bombing by jets and helicopters but said they had seen no ground troops.

The accounts by a dozen refugees to Associated Press reporters are a sign of just how much fighting remains before the military can even hope to clear the area, which in recent years has become a major global hub for al-Qaida and other extremist groups who carry out attacks against U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

The militants were believed to control roughly 1,275 square miles of territory before the offensive began. That portion covers about half of South Waziristan.

The military says its troops are progressing steadily and retaking land on three fronts. But officers have made it clear that the campaign will be long and bloody and acknowledged resistance is tough.

As the army presses into their heartland, the militants are trying to bring the war to the rest of Pakistan.

Over the last 20 days, they have killed more than 170 people in a series of suicide bombings and raids on Western, civilian and security-force targets across the country.

In the latest attack, suspected insurgents on a motorbike fatally shot a senior army officer and a soldier Thursday in a residential part of the capital, Islamabad. The slain officer, Ahmed Moinuddin, was on leave from his job as deputy commander of the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Sudan. The attack came despite ramped-up security nationwide. It was believed to be the first targeted killing of an army officer in the capital,



A Pakistani police officer uses a baton to disperse internal displaced person who fled Pakistani tribal area of Waziristan due to fierce fight between security forces and militants, as they gathered at a relief center in Paharpur near Dera Ismail Khan, Pakistan on Thursday, Oct. 22, 2009. Pakistani troops and the Taliban fought fierce battles in Waziristan, a militant sanctuary near the Afghan border in an operation that started on Saturday, with both sides claiming early victories in an army campaign that could shape the future of the country's battle against extremism.

Associated Press

a sign of evolving militant strategies.

The United Nations says 110,000 people have fled South Waziristan in recent months as speculation rose of an army offensive, about 30,000 of them in the last few days. Most are staying with relatives or in rented homes in Dera Ismail Khan and nearby districts.

New arrivals said the Taliban were preparing for a fight.

"We saw no ground forces on the way, nothing except helicopters and airplanes. But we saw a lot of Taliban movement," said Awal Jan, a refugee from the town of Sarwakai. "They were roaming around in their vehicles and digging trenches in the mountains."

Pakistan is under intense pressure to eliminate Islamist militant groups sheltering in its northwest that also attack U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan. The military has battled them in various districts, losing hundreds of soldiers, but questions remain about its overall strategic commitment to the fight.

The army has previously moved into South Waziristan three times since 2004. Each time it has suffered high casualties and signed peace deals that left insurgents with effective control of the region. Western officials say al-Qaida

now uses it and neighboring North Waziristan as an operations and training base.

One refugee said Taliban fighters had told villagers they must join them or flee.

"They said, 'If you want to side with us, you may. If you are scared of death, then leave immediately,'" said Habibullah, who gave only a single name.

Maadi Shah, his wife and five children walked for a day to escape.

"Earlier there was aerial bombing once a day, but now it is happening countless times," he said. "We saw the Taliban shifting to the mountains toward Makeen

(the main town). They are well-entrenched there," said Shah, who stopped talking after a man warned him of possible Taliban retaliation for meeting reporters.

The current offensive pits 28,000 troops against some 12,000 militants, 1,000 of them believed to be foreign fighters, mostly Chechen and Arabs. They are fighting in an unforgiving landscape of hulking mountains, rock-strewn valleys and sparse vegetation.

A military statement Thursday reported two more soldiers were killed, bringing the army's death toll to 18, and that 24 more militants were slain, bringing their death toll to 129. Reporters are blocked from entering the region, meaning verifying information is all but impossible. □

## Strong earthquake strikes Afghanistan and Pakistan

KABUL (AP) — A strong earthquake centered in the towering Hindu Kush mountains shook a wide area of eastern Afghanistan and Pakistan early Friday, swaying buildings in the Afghan and Pakistani capitals.

There were no initial reports of damage or casualties from the quake, which struck about 12:21 a.m. Afghan time.

However, the temblor was centered in a remote mountain area where communications are poor and reports of casualties take time to reach the capital.

The earthquake had a preliminary magnitude of 6.2 and was centered in the mountains about 167 miles northeast of Kabul and 140 miles west of Mingaora, Pakistan, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Buildings shook in the Pakistani cities of Peshawar and the capital Islamabad, and the quake was felt as far east as Lahore near the Indian border, Pakistani television stations reported.



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In this photo taken Sunday Sept. 27, 2009, Italian premier Silvio Berlusconi gestures as he delivers his speech at a meeting in Milan, Italy. News reports say a top Italian court has overturned an immunity law shielding Premier Berlusconi from a corruption trial in Milan. Berlusconi, a billionaire businessman-turned-politician with a history of legal troubles stemming from his private interests, said before the ruling that “nothing will make us betray the mandate that Italians have given us.”

*Associated Press*

## 100,000 women say they're offended by Silvio Berlusconi

ROME (AP) — More than 100,000 women have signed a petition saying they are offended by Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi — an initiative launched by a newspaper after the premier made a sexist remark to an opposition politician.

Berlusconi, 73, made the jab during a call in to a late-night talk show Oct. 7 that featured, among other guests, Rosy Bindi, a 58-year-old former minister who dresses conservatively, wears glasses and has short, gray hair.

“You are always more beautiful than intelligent,” Berlusconi told her. She snapped back: “I’m not one of the women at your disposal.”

Berlusconi’s remark sparked outrage, and prompted three prominent Italian intellectuals to draft a petition stating that Berlusconi uses women’s bodies for his political ends, denigrating women and democracy in the process.

“This man offends us. Stop him,” reads the petition, which has been signed by well-known Italian artists, musicians, television personalities as well as ordinary Italians.

The left-leaning La Repubblica daily, which has been at the forefront of exposing accusations of impropriety against Berlusconi over his relations with young women and been sued by the premier as a result, is organizing the petition and reported Thursday that more than 100,000 women had signed.

Many women sent their photos into the newspaper’s Web site, with the words “offended by the premier” or “not at your disposal” or similar statements written on them.

Berlusconi’s scandal began earlier this year when his wife announced she was divorcing him, citing his presence at the birthday party of an 18-year-old model and his decision to run former showgirls as candidates for European Parliament elections.

In the aftermath several women, including a prostitute, came forward with stories that they had been paid by a Berlusconi associate to attend parties at the premier’s homes. The associate, who is under investigation as part of an unrelated corruption probe, has said Berlusconi never knew the women had been paid. □



Internally displaced ethnic Sri Lankan Tamil civilians wait for their turn to return to their villages at Kathankulam village in Mannar, about 144 miles north of Colombo, Sri Lanka, Thursday, Oct. 22, 2009.

*Associated Press*

## Sri Lanka releases 4,300 from detention camps

ERANGA JAYAWARDENA

*Associated Press Writer*

KATHANKULAM, Sri Lanka (AP) — More than 4,000 ethnic Tamils displaced by civil war left government-run camps Thursday, the latest to be released amid international criticism that Sri Lanka is moving too slowly to let thousands of others go.

Hundreds of thousands of minority Tamil civilians were forced into the camps after fleeing the final months of the government’s decades-long war with the separatist Tamil Tiger rebels, which ended in May.

Rights groups have condemned the detention as an illegal form of collective punishment for the ethnic group. Aid groups say the camps are overcrowded and prone to disease, and fear imminent monsoons will create a public health crisis.

Sri Lanka has said that it can’t release the Tamils until they are screened for rebel ties. The government also says that their villages must still be de-mined.

The at least 4,300 Tamils released Thursday piled on tractors and into buses to head home. “We will take steps to give you all that you lost, other than the lost lives,” Basil Rajapaksa, a senior adviser to his brother, President Mahinda Rajapaksa, told a public meeting in the village of Kathankulam.

Top government officials pledged to compensate the villagers for their losses but did not give

specifics.

Sebastianpillai Rasanayagam, a 42-year-old rice farmer, was one of 1,225 refugees bused home to northern Mannar district.

He said his family had fled after a shell slammed into their house, killing his 8-year-old son.

The family crossed the front lines in February 2008 and was taken to a camp, where he described harsh conditions, including a lack of clean water.

“At the camp our only relief was that we were alive. We were worried when we will be able to return home,” Rasanayagam said. “Hospital visits were the only times I got to go out.”

Rasanayagam said he was relieved at being able to return home and resume farming, but he wept as he remembered his son.

“When I go home I will miss my son more,” Rasanayagam said.

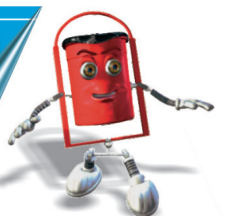
The United Nations, foreign governments and human rights groups have repeatedly asked Sri Lanka to release the estimated 270,000 people still detained.

Authorities said the 4,300 released Thursday are the first of 41,000 people who have been cleared to return home in four northern districts — Mannar, Jaffna, Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu.

The government promised a visiting U.N. official last month that it will send all the displaced people home by the end of January. □



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# Shelling in Somali capital kills 24, wounds 60

**MOHAMED OLAD HASSAN**  
Associated Press Writer  
MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — Mortars fired by Islamic militants slammed into Somalia's airport as the president was boarding a plane Thursday, sparking battles that killed at least 24 people when return fire hit residential areas and a market, officials said. A militant leader vowed to avenge the civilian deaths and threatened retaliatory attacks in two African countries that supply troops to the African Union peacekeeping mission stationed in Mogadishu. The president was unhurt and his plane took off safely, police said, but the deaths of civilians is fueling a growing anger toward African Union peacekeeping forces that are stationed in Mogadishu to help protect the U.N.-backed government.

Somalia's capital sees near-daily bloodshed as a powerful insurgent group with links to al-Qaida tries to overthrow the fragile government and push out some 5,000 AU peacekeepers. Both sides have been accused of indiscriminate shelling. At least 20 bodies, most of them civilians, lay in the streets after Thursday's fighting, said Ali Muse, the head of Mogadishu's ambulance service. Four people later died at the hospital. Muse said about 60 people were wounded as mortar rounds slammed into residential areas. "Soldiers from Uganda and Burundi soldiers are our enemy. They often massacre our people. We will not let them go unpunished, but will target them in Kampala and Bujumbura," the capitals of the two countries, said Sheikh Ali

Mohamed Hussein, a leader of al-Shabab, the militant group linked to al-Qaida that controls much of southern Somalia.

The shelling started soon after insurgents fired toward President Sheik Sharif Sheikh Ahmed's plane, said police spokesman Abdullahi Hassan Barise.

Thursday's violence — deadlier than many recent clashes in this once-beautiful seaside city — follow a pattern that witnesses say is becoming all too common. First, insurgents fire at government or AU targets. Then those forces respond by shelling insurgent bases, most of which lie in residential areas. The result is that most of those killed in Somalia's war are civilians.

The same situation exists in Afghanistan, where U.S. and NATO forces are battling Taliban militants. The militants fire on international troops from residential areas in hopes of drawing return fire that kills civilians — a propaganda victory for the militants. The U.S. commander in Afghanistan has sought to reduce such return fire, which turns Afghans against U.S. and NATO forces.

But in Somalia, the AU denies firing into residential areas. AU peacekeeping force



**A Somali woman is taken to the hospital after she was wounded during shelling between the Islamic insurgents and Somali government soldiers backed by the AU forces, in the south of Mogadishu, Somalia, Thursday, Oct. 22, 2009. Mortars slammed into Somalia's capital killing at least 16 people and wounding more than 25, Mogadishu's ambulance service said. Somalia's capital sees near-daily bloodshed as insurgents try to overthrow the government and push out African Union peacekeepers.**

*Associated Press*

spokesman Barigye Bahoku said insurgents are actually shelling the residential areas they control to make it appear the AU is responsible. But many Somalis doubt such assertions.

"What cannot be denied is that most of the fire comes from the bases of the African Union, and they hit and kill civilians in the rebel-controlled areas," said Ahmed Abdulahi, a businessman in Mogadishu. "People have eyes and ears, they know what is going on." Sheik Ali Mohamud Siyad, the trader's chairman of Bakara

Market which was hit with mortar shells Thursday, said: "It is ruthless and inhumane to target innocent civilians, but it happens every day here and nobody bothers to mention it."

Anger is growing toward a peacekeeping force that has long lamented that it is undermanned. The force is meant to have 8,000 troops, but reinforcements have not arrived. The troops, from Uganda and Burundi, come under regular attack and mostly are confined to bases in Mogadishu for safety. □



**Anders Wejryd, archbishop of the Lutheran Church of Sweden, left, and Esbjorn Hagberg, the bishop of Karlstad parish, right, look on as Gunnar Sibbmark, chairman of the Synod of the Lutheran Church of Sweden, center, speaks during a press conference following a vote in favor of allowing church weddings for gay couples, in Uppsala, Sweden, Thursday, Oct. 22, 2009.**

*Associated Press*

## Church of Sweden ok's gay weddings in church

STOCKHOLM (AP) — The Church of Sweden has decided to allow its priests to wed same-sex couples in new gender-neutral church ceremonies.

Thursday's decision was favored in a 176-62 church board vote. Eleven members abstained and two were absent.

In May, Sweden introduced a new law giving gay couples the same marriage rights as heterosexuals. The clergy has been split on the issue however, since some argued the church ceremony should be reserved for male-female couples. Same-sex church weddings will start on Nov. 1.

Sweden's archbishop Anders Wejryd said he was pleased with the decision, while the Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights described it as "a big step in the right direction." □

## Last Uruguayan dictator sentenced to 25 years

**RAUL O. GARCES**

Associated Press Writer

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay (AP) — Uruguay's last dictator, Gregorio Alvarez, was sentenced to 25 years in prison Thursday for 37 homicides during the nation's 1973-1985 military regime, when dissidents disappeared in a region-wide crackdown on leftists called "Operation Condor."

Alvarez, 83, was commander-in-chief of the army in the late 1970s and de facto president from 1980 until shortly before democracy was restored. He was accused in the disappearance of Uruguayan political prisoners seized in neighboring Argentina and secretly returned home as part of a joint operation that saw South America's right-wing regimes cooperate to crush leftist dissent.

Prosecution lawyer Oscar Lopez Goldaracena called Thursday's ruling "a very important step in clarifying" Uruguay's past. He said the defense can still appeal the ruling.

Alvarez — who has said he knew nothing of illegal abductions and forced disappearances

— was detained by Uruguayan authorities in 2007, in a step human rights groups hailed as historic. He has been in preventative detention since then.

Prosecutors argued that Alvarez was in a position to know what happened to the political prisoners as army commander in chief and later as de facto president.

Alvarez was not in court Thursday for health reasons.

In an earlier appearance, he raised his cuffed hands and told the court he thought he "was going to die in prison."

Alvarez's wife, Rosario Flores, protested the sentence, charging it was orchestrated for political purposes ahead of Sunday's presidential election.

"I want to know what proof they have and where are the bodies?" she told The Associated Press.

The judge on Thursday also sentenced navy Capt. Juan Larcebeau to 20 years in prison for 29 homicides related to clandestine prisoner transfers in 1978. □



# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY

### NHL Roundup

# Tavares lifts Islanders past Hurricanes in SO

UNIONDALE, New York (AP) — John Tavares scored in the shootout to give the New York Islanders their first victory of the season, 4-3 over the Carolina Hurricanes on Wednesday night.

Jeff Tambellini and Frans Nielsen also scored in the shootout to help the Islanders avoid their worst start in the club's history. Andy Sutton, Tim Jackman and Matt Moulson scored in regulation for New York.

Matt Cullen scored in the second period and Erik Staal and Jussi Jokinen had goals in the third to tie the score and help the Hurricanes pick up a point for the first time in the last four games. Jokinen had Carolina's lone score in the shootout.



New York Islanders' John Tavares (91) shoots the puck past Carolina Hurricanes goalie Cam Ward (30) during a shootout in a NHL hockey game at the Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, N.Y. on Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2009. The Islanders won the game 4-3 in a shootout.

Associated Press

Ryan Whitney, playing in his 1,000th career game, had an assist on Staal's score.

### Wild 3, Avalanche 2, SO

At St. Paul, Mikko Koivu tied the game in regulation and scored on Minnesota's first shot in the shootout, sending the Wild past Colorado.

Darcy Tucker and Kyle Quincey scored second-period goals for the Avalanche, who outshot the Wild 29-13 after the first period. Goalie Craig Anderson had a shaky start and couldn't hold the lead the whole way, letting Koivu's low snap shot get by.

Wild goalie Niklas Backstrom made 33 saves, then stopped all three shots in the shootout, two of them back-handers that missed wide right.

Continued on Page B12



This is an Oct. 17, 2009, file photo showing Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark, left, talking with her father and coach, Victor Krason, during her semi-final match against Samantha Stosur of Australia at the Japan Women's Open Tennis in Osaka, western Japan. Tennis authorities are looking into a WTA Tour match involving U.S. Open finalist Caroline Wozniacki that apparently sparked bettors to pile money on her opponent when she was on the verge of losing in straight sets.

### CHRIS LEHOURITES

#### AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — Tennis authorities are looking into a WTA Tour match involving U.S. Open finalist Caroline Wozniacki that apparently sparked bettors to pile money on her opponent when she was on the verge of losing in

straight sets.

Wozniacki, a 19-year-old Dane ranked sixth in the world, retired from the first-round match at the Luxembourg Open with a hamstring injury on Wednesday while leading Anne Kremer of Luxembourg 7-5, 5-0.

Wozniacki's father, Piotr,

# Tennis authorities looking into women's match fixing

told his daughter at 3-0 in the second set to retire before winning because her injury would prevent her from playing in the next round. His comments, apparently spoken in his native Polish, were picked up by microphones and heard by viewers watching the match on the Internet.

"I went onto the court and said to her: 'Caro, it does not matter whether it's going to be 5-0, 4-1 or 3-2. You can not play the next round, so you shouldn't take the risk,'" Piotr Wozniacki said Thursday on Danish radio. "I'm very proud of Caroline, because she stopped the fight and gave her opponent a chance."

The father's comments during the match led to a surge in online bets for Kremer to win. The governing bodies of tennis created a Tennis Integrity Unit last year to combat gambling

and match-fixing.

"We're just looking into everything that happened in this match," WTA spokesman Neil Robinson said, adding that he believed the information would go to the integrity unit. "I would think that would be the way it would go. They are aware of it."

The Tennis Integrity Unit does not comment on cases, and neither would Betfair, an online gambling site that works closely with tennis authorities. "Under the terms of our memorandum of understanding with sporting bodies worldwide, it is up to the sporting authorities to comment," Betfair spokesman Tony Calvin said. "However, it is reasonable to assume that in high-profile cases like this, correspondence has been made." Betfair, however, said it did not have any concerns

about the match at this stage, and that the money won or lost was not unusual.

In Danish newspaper Ekstra Bladet, Wozniacki professed her innocence.

"So, people bet on my matches. Some win, others lose. I just know that I am clean. It is most important to me," Wozniacki said. "And if anyone is in doubt about my injury, I can both produce scan from the hospital and a report from the tournament physiotherapist."

Although it appears unlikely that Wozniacki conspired to fix the match, she could still be fined for "lack of effort" according to International Tennis Federation statutes.

In 2007, Betfair voided all bets on a match involving Nikolay Davydenko because of suspicious gambling patterns.



## NLCS Roundup

# Phillies beat Dodgers 10-4, return to World Series

ROB MAADDI

AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Jayson Werth hit two home runs as the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 10-4 in Game 5 on Wednesday night to win their second straight National League pennant and head back to the World Series.

Shane Victorino and Pedro Feliz also connected for the defending champions.

Brad Lidge closed it out and the Phillies became the first team to reach consecutive World Series since the New York Yankees in 2000-01.

They'll go for their third World Series title beginning next Wednesday night at New York or Los Angeles. The Yankees lead the Angels 3-1 in the ALCS, which resumes Thursday night at Angel Stadium.

Philadelphia overcame another shaky outing by 2008 NLCS and World Series MVP Cole Hamels. Meanwhile, slugger Manny Ramirez, manager Joe Torre and the rest of the Dodgers go home after leading the NL with 95 wins in the regular season and sweeping the St. Louis Cardinals in the division series.

Los Angeles closed to 9-4 in the eighth, but Ryan Madson escaped a bases-loaded jam by striking out Russell Martin and retiring Casey Blake on a grounder to shortstop.

After beating Tampa Bay in last year's World Series, the Phillies are trying to

become the first repeat champions from the NL since the Cincinnati Reds in 1975-76. The Yankees were the last team to win consecutive titles when they captured three in a row from 1998-2000.

Andre Ethier, James Loney and pinch-hitter Orlando Hudson hit solo homers for the Dodgers, who also lost to the Phillies in five games in last year's NLCS.

Five pitchers tossed 4 2-3 strong innings in relief of an ineffective Hamels, who hasn't been the dominant ace he was last postseason. Chad Durbin earned the win by retiring all four batters he faced, including Ramirez representing the tying run in the fifth.

Lidge, who has bounced back from a rough season with a 0.00 ERA during the playoffs, worked a scoreless ninth.

Hamels allowed three runs and five hits in 4 1-



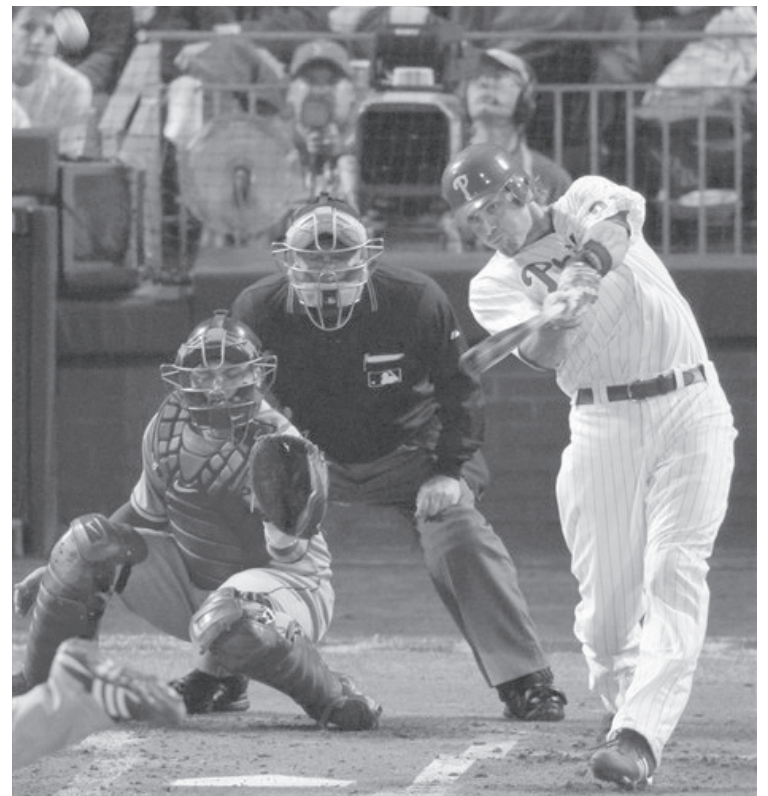
Philadelphia Phillies' Ryan Howard holds the MVP trophy after the Phillies beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 10-4 in Game 5 of the National League Championship Series to take the league title Thursday, Oct. 22, 2009, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

3 innings. Still, he got a standing ovation on his way to the dugout.

The teams combined to tie the record of seven homers in a postseason game. It was the fifth time that's happened.

## Werth it!



Philadelphia Phillies' Jayson Werth, right, slugs a three-run home run off Los Angeles Dodgers' Vicente Padilla in the first inning of Game 5 of the National League Championship Series Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2009, in Philadelphia. Los Angeles Dodgers catcher Russell Martin and umpire Tom Hallion watch.

Associated Press

Once considered the NL's Street on flatbed trucks laughingstock, the Phillies during the city's first have been thinking dynasty championship parade in 25 since riding down Broad years last October. □

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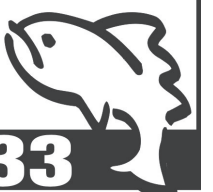
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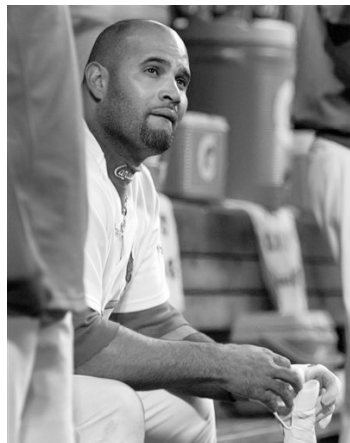
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Colorado Avalanche goalie Craig Anderson has some help from a teammate batting away a deflected puck shot by the Minnesota Wild in the third period of an NHL hockey game Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2009, in St. Paul, Minn. The Wild won 3-2 in a shootout.

Associated Press

## Bone chips removed from Pujols' elbow



St. Louis Cardinals' Albert Pujols sits in the dugout during the eighth inning in Game 3 of the National League division baseball series against the Los Angeles Dodgers Saturday, Oct. 10, 2009, in St. Louis.

Associated Press

R.B. FALLSTROM

AP Sports Writer

ST. LOUIS (AP) — St. Louis Cardinals star Albert Pujols underwent arthroscopic

surgery on his right elbow on Wednesday, with doctors removing bone chips and trimming bone spurs. He is expected to make a full recovery in time for next season.

Dr. James Andrews, who performed the operation in Alabama, said Pujols would not require ligament reconstruction. Pujols has been playing with a partially torn ligament since 2003, and reconstructive surgery would have sidelined him for the first few months of next season.

Pujols, 29, will begin rehabilitation next week in St. Louis and is expected to fully recover, the team said in a prepared statement. No timetable for his return has been set.

Pujols has had surgery in the past two offseasons. □

**NHL ROUNDUP****Continued from Page B10**

Brent Burns scored on a first-period power play, and Koivu tied it with 4:51 left in regulation on a simple redirect.

**Sabres 5, Panthers 2**

At Sunrise, Florida, Mike Grier, Jason Pominville and Matt Ellis each scored in the first five minutes of a wild opening period to lift Buffalo.

Tyler Myers and Thomas Vanek also scored in the first for the Sabres, who opened a three-game road trip.

Steve Reinprecht and Rostislav Olesz had the Panthers' goals.

Sabres goalie Ryan Miller, who hasn't lost in regulation this season, stopped 41 shots.

**Bruins 3, Predators 2**

At Boston, Steve Begin got his first goal with the Bruins, getting the tiebreaker at 8:33 of the third period.

Boston, who have lost Milan Lucic (broken finger) and Marc Savard (broken foot) to long-term injured reserve, traded Chuck Kobasew to Minnesota, and were also without Shawn Thornton (undisclosed injury).

**Canucks 3, Blackhawks 2**

At Chicago, Michael Grabner scored an equalizer with 7:44 to play and Mikael Samuelsson followed with the winner 3:02 later as Vancouver rallied for its first road victory of the season.

The Canucks hadn't won away since beating Chicago in Game 3 of the teams' second-round playoff series

last May. The Blackhawks advanced by taking the final three games, and Canucks goalie Roberto Luongo wept after allowing seven goals in the decisive Game 6.

Luongo was much better Wednesday, making several acrobatic stops among his 18 saves, but he received a lot of help from his teammates as Vancouver was the first team to outshoot the Blackhawks this season.

Samuelsson, who also assisted on Steve Bernier's first-period goal, has 20 points in 25 career games against the Blackhawks.

**Stars 4, Ducks 2**

At Anaheim, defenseman Trevor Daley scored his first goal of the season on a power play and James Neal set up goals by Loui Eriksson and Brenden Morrow to lead Dallas.

Marty Turco made 24 saves for the Stars, who were missing Mike Modano (rib), Jere Lehtinen (abdominal soreness) and Brad Richards (groin). Steve Ott added an empty-net goal with 9 seconds to play.

Ryan Getzlaf and Joffrey Lupul scored for Anaheim.

Ott, who was activated from injured reserve after missing four games with a strained oblique muscle, also got an assist on Daley's goal.

**In other games it was, Boston 3, Nashville 2; N.Y. Islanders 4, Carolina 3, SO; Buffalo 5, Florida 2; Minnesota 3, Colorado 2, SO; Vancouver 3, Chicago 2; and**

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# Cuerpo electoral de Honduras insiste en votación para resolver crisis

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Las autoridades hondureñas encargadas de organizar las elecciones programadas para noviembre insistieron el jueves en que pueden realizar una votación justa y libre que resuelva la crisis política desatada a fines de junio con el derrocamiento del presidente. Durante una visita a Washington en busca de apoyo para los comicios del 29 de noviembre, los tres miembros del Tribunal Supremo Electoral de Honduras aseguraron que la votación en las urnas es la mejor vía para resolver la crisis, independientemente de que el depuesto presidente Manuel Zelaya esté refugiado en una embajada extranjera. Sin embargo, Estados Unidos, la Unión Europea y gobiernos latinoamericanos han condenado el golpe de Estado del 28 de junio y están exigiendo que Zelaya regrese al poder para finalizar su mandato.

El Gobierno del presidente de Estados Unidos Barack Obama aún debe decidir si reconocerá como legítima la elección si Zelaya no es reinstaurado antes de la votación.

El presidente del Tribunal Supremo Electoral, José Saúl Escobar, dijo que espera que se llegue a un acuerdo político entre Zelaya y el Gobierno de facto que lo reemplazó, pero insistió en que Honduras necesita elegir a un nuevo presidente que asuma el cargo para preservar la democracia. “La mayoría de los hondureños quiere elecciones para resolver la crisis”, comentó en Washington. Más de 118.000 miembros de mesa han sido capacitados con asistencia de dos organismos del Gobierno de Estados Unidos dedicados al fortalecimiento de la democracia, dijo David Andrés Matamoros, uno de los tres funcionarios electorales de Honduras que se reunieron el miércoles con autoridades del Departamento de Estado estadounidense.

“El Gobierno de los Estados Unidos sigue una política de

dos vías, de un lado apoya la vía del diálogo y el arreglo político y del otro la vía de las elecciones”, dijo Matamoros.

## LEGITIMIDAD ELECCIONES, EN DUDA

Zelaya fue sacado a la fuerza del país por soldados el 28 de junio luego de que la Corte Suprema ordenara su arresto. Sus críticos lo acusan de violar la Constitución al insistir en un referendo para reformar la carta magna y permitir su reelección, cargo que él rechaza.

El derrocado gobernante regresó clandestinamente al país hace un mes y está refugiado en la embajada brasileña en Tegucigalpa para no ser arrestado.

Las negociaciones entre sus representantes y los del Gobierno de facto, mediadas por la Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA), se estancaron tras la negativa de la administración interina a permitirle volver a la presidencia.

Escobar insistió en que los acontecimientos políticos en Honduras no han afectado el proceso electoral, puesto que la convocatoria a los comicios y el registro de candidatos ocurrieron antes del golpe que derrocó a Zelaya.

“Para que haya continuidad de la democracia deben haber elecciones”, insistió.

Washington suspendió el miércoles más visas de altas figuras del Gobierno de facto presidido por Roberto Micheletti, para presionar a un acuerdo.

El presidente de la organización de derechos humanos Inter-American Dialogue, Peter Hakim, dijo que la mejor opción era un acuerdo político que permita a Zelaya regresar al poder.

“Pero eso no significa que la crisis tiene que seguir para siempre si no hubiera acuerdo”, señaló Hakim. “Obviamente, una elección es una forma de resolver la crisis, creo que es la segunda mejor”,



El depuesto mandatario hondureño Manuel Zelaya habla durante una conferencia de prensa al interior de la embajada de Brasil en Tegucigalpa, oct 21 2009. REUTERS/Edgard Garrido

opinó.

En tanto, otros rechazan los comicios como solución a la crisis política porque afirman que las autoridades que dirigen el país actualmente son

ilegales y que las restricciones a las libertades públicas y de expresión hacen imposible un proceso electoral legítimo. “Si no hay una restitución del presidente Zelaya y del orden

constitucional, las elecciones carecen de legitimidad”, dijo Hugo Noe Pino, consejero del director ejecutivo del Banco Mundial, hablando como ciudadano hondureño. □

## Justicia uruguaya condena a ex dictador a 25 años de prisión

MONTEVIDEO (Reuters) - La Justicia de Uruguay condenó el jueves a 25 años de prisión al ex dictador Gregorio Alvarez por 37 homicidios ocurridos durante el Gobierno militar que transcurrió entre 1973 y 1985, dijo un abogado de familiares de desaparecidos. En tanto, el marino Juan Carlos Larcebau recibió una pena de 20 años de cárcel por 29 delitos de homicidio especialmente agravado, explicó el abogado Oscar López Goldaracena a Reuters.

“En los considerandos del fallo, el juez catalogó a los crímenes como de lesa humanidad”, agregó. Ambos se encontraban en prisión a la espera de una condena. Alvarez, de 83 años y un referente de la dictadura, había sido enviado a la cárcel en diciembre del 2007.

Las víctimas fueron secuestradas en Argentina, torturadas en el centro de

reclusión clandestino conocido como “Pozo de Banfield” y trasladadas en 1978 hacia Uruguay, pero sus restos nunca aparecieron.

Unos 200 uruguayos desaparecieron durante el período militar, en su mayoría en Argentina en operaciones conjuntas de las fuerzas de seguridad de las dictaduras. En 1978, Alvarez era comandante del Ejército y fue presidente del Gobierno militar entre 1981 y 1985, cuando se restauró la democracia.

Una decena de militares, además del ex presidente que disolvió en Congreso en 1973, Juan María Bordaberry, y su canciller Juan Carlos Blanco, se encuentran en prisión a raíz de diferentes investigaciones sobre desapariciones y asesinatos durante el Gobierno de facto.

La condena se estableció pocos días después de que la



Foto de archivo del ex dictador Gregorio Alvarez antes de ser trasladado a prisión en Montevideo, dic 19 2007. REUTERS/Fito Mendez (URUGUAY)

Suprema Corte de Justicia declarara inconstitucional una ley de amnistía a militares para un caso específico y a tres jornadas de que los uruguayos voten en un referendo para anular la norma. □



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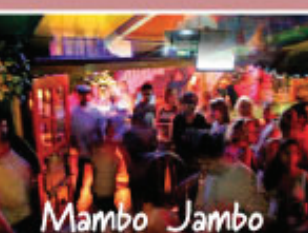
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